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NEW TIMES

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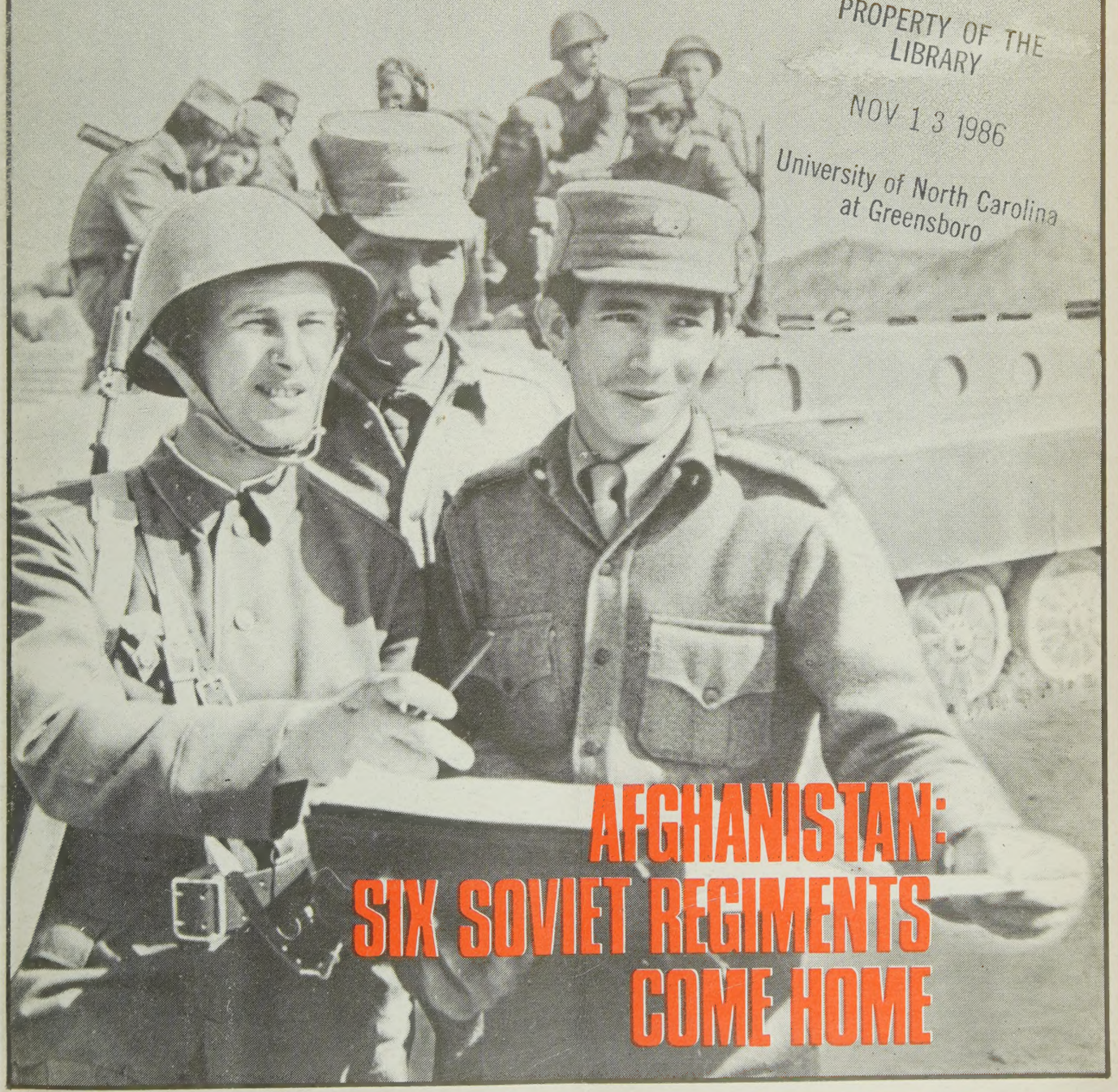

AFGHANISTAN: SIX SOVIET REGIMENTS COME HOME

"TBILISOBA"

Irakli Abashidze, Georgian poet, member of the Georgian Academy of Sciences and a Hero of Socialist Labour, invites you to the colourful festival in Tbilisi.

Tbilisi has been the capital of Georgia, one of the oldest states in Asia, for 15 centuries. We in Tbilisi celebrated this date on a grand scale about 25 years ago. It was then that the idea was suggested to restore old Tbilisi to its former look, to conduct archeological excavations and study its past, because Tbilisi had existed many centuries before it was proclaimed the capital of Georgia.

Restoration work naturally began in the oldest parts of the city, the parts that were ravaged, burned down and razed to the ground in 1795 by the formidable ruler of neighbouring Iran, Agha Mohammad Khan, who was convinced that Georgia, bled white by numerous enemies, was set on reuniting with Russia, its great northern neighbour. He spent ten long days pillaging and destroying the Georgian capital in that fateful month of September, but fortunately—as was discovered during the restoration work—a lot escaped the enemy's fire and sword. We have now witnessed the revival of old bath houses, caravanserai, underground stores, merchants' cellars and a multitude of other structures, which today form a magnificent architectural ensemble of old Tbilisi and have become a favourite tourist haunt. The idea of the "Tbilisoba" festival was prompted to us by the restoration of Tbilisi's old quarters.

"Tbilisoba" does not mark any particular red-letter date. It is just a name feast of Tbilisi, old and new, held each year in October. Tbilisi is particularly beautiful at this time of the year. Trucks loaded with the autumn harvest are converging on the capital from all over Georgia.

Everyone has his own place at the festival. "Tbilisoba" gets its start at the newly-restored old quarters. Old Tbilisi shows are staged in its streets not even wide enough for two cars. Old city melodies are heard and poems of all times and peoples glorifying Tbilisi are recited. On the platforms are famous actors dressed in the old Tbilisi style; old horse-drawn carriages ride in the streets. The piping of "duduks" and hurdy-gurdies fills the air. Wafted from the Kura River are the songs of raftsmen. Fireworks blaze in the sky and the city is brightly illuminated.

By tradition on that day honorary citizens of Tbilisi are named, people who have done some great service to the city. There are already dozens of them, including workers, scientists, artists and public personalities from Georgia and other republics of the Soviet Union. Be sure to come to Tbilisi for its annual festival.

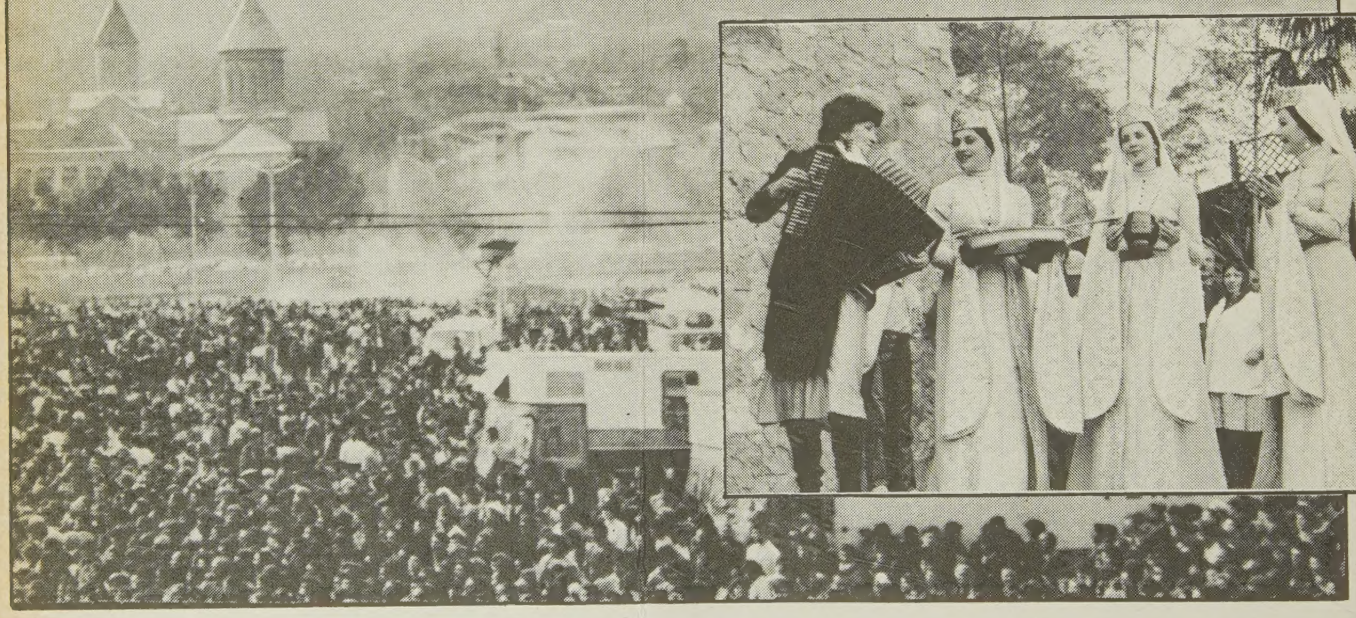

Photo by G. Ginsburg

WE ARE NOT WITHDRAWING OUR PROPOSALS

From Mikhail Gorbachev's October 22 Television Speech

Dramatic as the course of the talks and their results were, the Reykjavik meeting has gone a long way, probably for the first time in decades, towards achieving nuclear disarmament. As a result of the meeting, we have risen to a higher level not only in analyzing the situation, but in determining the objectives and framework of possible accords on nuclear disarmament.

●

Reykjavik not only generated hopes. Reykjavik also highlighted the obstacles to a nuclear-free world.

Quarters linked with militarism and arms race profits are clearly scared.

Forces in the camp of the enemies of détente and disarmament have begun to regroup. Feverish efforts are being made to put up such obstacles as will strangle the process launched in Reykjavik.

A hectic campaign to misappropriate the other side's proposals began.

What was being carefully concealed before is now transpiring: among U.S. and West European ruling circles, there are powerful forces which seek to frustrate the process of nuclear disarmament. Some people are again making nuclear weapons out to be all but a boon.

●

But the essence of our stand and of our proposals is as follows: we are for a reduction and then a complete elimination of nuclear weapons and are firmly against a new stage in the arms race and against its transfer to outer space.

Hence we are against SDI and for the consolidation of the ABM Treaty.

We see the main danger of SDI precisely in that it offers a way to transfer the arms race to a new sphere, to break out into space with offensive arms and thereby to achieve military superiority.

SDI interferes with ending the arms race and getting rid of nuclear weapons, it is the main obstacle blocking progress towards a nuclear-free world.

●

Many a tale has been invented to boost SDI's prestige. One of them is that the Russians are terribly afraid of it. Another is that it is SDI which brought the Russians to the talks in Geneva and then to Reykjavik. A third is that SDI alone will save America from the "Soviet threat." A fourth is that SDI will give the United States a great technological lead over the Soviet Union and other countries, and so on, and so forth.

Knowing the problem, I can say now only one thing: continuation of the SDI programme will propel the world into a new stage of the arms race and destabilize the strategic situation.

The rest of what is being ascribed to SDI is very dubious in many respects and is being done to gift wrap a suspect and dangerous commodity.

●

The "star wars" plans have become the chief obstacle to agreement on averting the nuclear threat. In vain Washington is now claiming that we are moving towards an agreement.

Only politically naive people could settle for eliminating nuclear weapons as a deterrent to American aggression, while exposing themselves to a threat from space instead. There are none in the Soviet leadership.

●

The prospect for Soviet-American mutual understanding has caused such a scare among certain quarters that they are coming up with absolutely inconceivable a priori obstacles and inventing preconditions.

Evidently the thing is that the policy makers in the West are thinking of nuclear weapons not in terms of defence at all. Otherwise, it is difficult to imagine why pretexts are being sought out now for keeping the missiles or why support for SDI is being expressed at government level.

●

All our proposals in Reykjavik are objectively connected with the central strategic weapons systems. Our concessions are also a part of the package. No package—no concessions.

This is a must for our national security; but such an approach also guarantees security for the U.S., as well as other countries.

That is why we are attaching such significance to consolidating the ABM Treaty.

Without strict observance of the treaties, and especially such a fundamental one, it is impossible to ensure international order and elementary stability. Otherwise, the world will be the reign of arbitrariness and chaos.

●

The Soviet Union has put the maximum of good will into its proposals. We are not removing these proposals, they stand!

NEW TIMES

A SOVIET WEEKLY OF WORLD AFFAIRS

НОВОЕ ВРЕМЯ · TEMPS NOUVEAUX · NOWE CZASY · TIEMPOS NUEVOS · NEUE ZEIT · nová doba · TEMPI NUOVI · TEMPOS NOVOS

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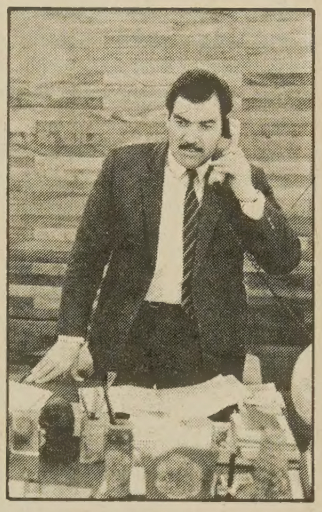
COVER: Photo by L. Yakutin



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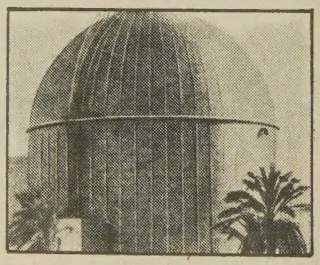

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Israel's secret war for nuclear domination in the Middle East

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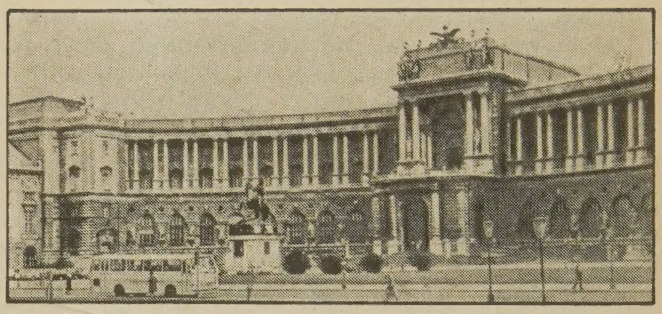

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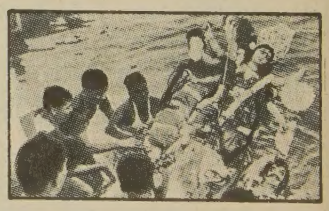

LORD RAMA'S LAST ARROW

hits Ravana, and the giant dummy of the demon catches fire in a Delhi square

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PLAYING AT POLITICS

ALEXANDER PUMPYANSKY

Today when so many wonder what the odd season that has come to Washington may be, I think I have the answer: President Reagan has brought in Icelandic weather from Reykjavik.

Icelandic weather is absolutely unpredictable. You can feel happy when a beam of sunshine suddenly cuts through the dense clouds overhead. However, don't unbutton your coat, as a quarter of an hour later a wet wind will prickle your face heavens know from where. Yet do not despair, as some 15 minutes later the beating rain may stop as unexpectedly as it began. But as you already think you have assimilated the algorithm of this changeability, hail will start as occurred during the final hour of the last and fourth unplanned round of the summit.

Icelandic Weather in Washington

Washington politics are bedevilled by Icelandic weather that varies not by the day, but by the hour and minute. Thus on Sunday October 12, all America saw at halftime during the Cowboys vs. Redskins match the clouded visages of their President and Secretary of State. Next morning though the faces of the President's men dazzled with gleaming smiles and the Secretary of State sunnily explained the change with captivating simplicity. He had had a good night's rest and the tiredness and disappointment had gone. No doubt, he was grateful to his NATO colleagues, who at their Brussels meet, that he attended straight after Reykjavik, had explained to him, a participant in the summit, the historic meaning of what had been achieved.

An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening. The passage of time will furnish a more precise picture of the scope and scale of those two days, so extraordinary in many respects, which, perhaps, may affect East-West relations in a way no other event has over the past 20 years. But whence such somersaults?

Take the September squall of anti-Soviet hysteria, manifestly preplanned in the backrooms of the Washington "intelligence community" (the Zakharov arrest timed for the U.N. General Assembly session, the "Daniloff affair," the brazen-faced expelling of 25 members of the Soviet U.N. mission).... Then the sensational Reykjavik announcement and the expectation of good news... Followed, without the slightest respite by a propaganda flare-up, with all the Washington big guns, from Shultz to Perle, let alone the President himself, thundering away in concert. As if this was not enough there came another blow below the belt this time with the kniving away of staff at the Soviet Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General in San Francisco by a total of 55 persons at once. What can one say?

Of course the November mid-term elections are round the corner and voters must necessarily have heads muddled so as not, good grief, to replace two or three Senators or Representatives in a manner that would go against the grain of the Administration and the Republican Party bosses. It stands to reason that the "top popular" President is simply obliged with every means at his disposal to sustain his reputation as a "master negotiator," a "tough politician who has put those Russians in their place." Yet shouldn't there be some decency, commitments, if not to partners in such difficult talks, then at least to the serious nature of the subject discussed!

Cartoon by I. Smirnov

Politics and politicking. For every U.S.-watcher newsman that is a traditional tune. Jimmy Carter once said: "We shouldn't play politics with nuclear arsenals." Alas, they are doing that, oblivious to all else.

Abduction in Public

Politicking ousted politics right after Reykjavik. The No. 1 objective set was to kidnap Reykjavik. That U.S. obstinacy had spiked the accommodations, or as someone put it, such a grand compromise had foundered on the grand illusion of SDI, was to be forgotten. The sober approach was to be discarded.

Edward Kennedy is indignant. "It is difficult to believe," he says, "that any other President since World War II would have ignored the opportunity that knocked at Reykjavik."

Representative Barney Frank sadly observed that "the President was rejecting a bird in the hand for pie in the sky."

Former U.S. Secretary of Defence James Schlesinger deplores the fact that the chance of an entire generation has been let slip.

But ... stuff up your ears and forget it all! And cuss the Russians who tried—why, one can hardly say it—to choke in the cradle the President's pet Strategic Defence Initiative. The President couldn't take that, of course. He is prepared to "walk an extra mile" but never "barter America's freedom and future."

All these philippics are so impassionedly uttered that one feels embarrassed to ask: strictly speaking, why is the Soviet proposed strengthening of the ABM treaty, in other words, an actual invitation to strictly abide for the next ten years by this treaty, which the U.S. President himself signed, considered tantamount to a sell-out of America's freedom and future?

Ear-splitting politicking is ousting politics. Reykjavik is being stolen before our very eyes. The Russians are to be faulted for the breakdown of the

That sunny Saturday morning of October 25 crowds gathered outside Moscow's Olympic Sports Complex with placards saying "Stop the nuclear arms race on Earth and prevent it in space!" and "We demand an immediate stoppage of all nuclear weapon tests as urgent practical moves." The thousands upon thousands of Muscovites who had congregated for this rally, held within the framework of the U.N. Disarmament Week, signed the Copenhagen Appeal that had been adopted by representatives of the public in the countries of the Delhi Six. The day before many had taken part in the meetings devoted to United Nations Day and the International Year of Peace.

"During the war I saw the Earth from up in a dive bomber. This was an Earth that groaned and spit forth blood and tears, an Earth furrowed by tank tracks," Georgy Beregovoy, Pilot Cosmonaut of the U.S.S.R., said at the Olympic Sports Complex rally. "And I have seen the Earth from up in a spaceship, an Earth lovely in its peaceful blueness, a creator Earth. When you see these two faces of the Earth you realize still more deeply how just is that axiomatic truth of this nuclear age, that the Earth is our common home, the only home for humanity, one that is lovely, but most vulnerable. An awareness of that is already a move towards saving the human race from the menace of nuclear devastation."

The Soviet proposals put forward in the Icelandic capital have imparted fresh incentives to the struggle for a nuclear-free future, it was emphasized by workers, scientists and college students addressing the rally. Today humanity is convinced that the elimination of the nuclear threat is both realistic and feasible. All at the Olympic Sports Complex rally displayed this resolve and hope.

The autumn movements of anti-war forces are now in full swing. Up in front as always are the peace partisans from the fraternal socialist countries and the Soviet Union. Leningrad, Tashkent, Oryol, Volgograd and other Soviet cities and towns are venues of meetings, demonstrations, poster shows, youth processions, etc.

Photo by V. Panov

agreements, while the Americans are to be credited for their having been so near.

The victim of plagiarism may always console himself by noting the plagiarist's high appreciation of the work plagiarized. American attempts to appropriate the political results of Reykjavik are, if you please, also a way of admitting the value of what has been achieved. True, in grand politics one would like to have a little more respectability.

But it is absolutely impermissible to distort the facts.

One cannot imagine how we newsmen suffered from the Reykjavik blackout, the official understanding to bar all information about the talks from seeping out of the Höfdi Villa. However, the splurge of verbiage that emanated from Washington after the summit, the deluge of tendentiousness presents, one would say, too magnanimous a compensation for the two days of silence.

You have politicking not only when "fateful issues," the issues of war and peace in the nuclear age, are sacrificed to further the ambitions of political struggle at home. You have politicking even when already after the talks attempts are made post-factum to rewrite the accommodations—or rather, "respeak" them, inasmuch as they were oral accommodations. Mikhail Gorbachev was even obliged to make public one relevant incident.

"Thus it is alleged that at the summit the U.S. President did not agree to the Soviet proposal for the **complete** abolition of **all** Soviet and U.S. strategic offensive weapons by 1996 and that no common view has been reached on this proposal of ours," the Soviet leader stated. "With a full sense of responsibility as a participant in the talks, I declare: the President agreed—although without any particular enthusiasm—to the liquidation of all, I repeat, all, and not just some types of strategic offensive weapons. And to their destruction precisely within ten years, in two stages."

By means of TV wizardry and unprecedented hypnotism the Administration is attempting to work a miracle completely beyond its powers—to revise the Höfdi Villa talks, completely rewrite the President's contribution and introduce post-factum into the aspects of accord sundry clarifications, addenda and preconditions, in much the same way as if the Cowboys had thought to chalk up a bigger score against the Redskins after the match had ended.

Yet, there is a policy to this politicking.

Panic and Retreat

President Reagan is congratulated and censured—in a very respectful manner—"from the right." For what? He is congratulated for not having reached agreement with the Russians, for having dodged this diabolical temptation in the eleventh hour. He is censured for having been so dangerously near to accommodations. This censure is edifying.

The generals at NATO headquarters (for instance, the West German General Hans-Joachim Mack, the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander of NATO's United Forces in Europe) loudly grumbled that their advice had not been asked and that "Reykjavik had gone too far." The politicos are more disciplined and more readily stand to attention. They couch their censure as counsel, as, for example, F.R.G. Chancellor Helmut Kohl. What perturbs them? That "zero option" it appears.

The "option," to which they swore such undying love so very recently. Now, when this "option" has been agreed in principle between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., Western Europe's politicians and generals are balking, reluctant to have U.S. missiles withdrawn. A paradox?

How come? After all, according to official NATO logic, the Pershing 2 and cruise missiles were deployed in the Old World as response to Soviet SS-20s. Hence the dismantling of one set of missiles automatically deprives the presence of another set of missiles in Europe of all justification. All-knowing Henry Kissinger pontificates that that is all fiddlesticks, that the need to balance the SS-20s was no more than a pretext, that the Euromissiles must not be withdrawn. "Ironically," he explains, "it (the 'zero option') was first suggested by the Defence Department, which calculated that the Soviets would reject it. In the end, a tactical ploy wound up developing a life of its own."

We are grateful for the candour, but surely these explanations would have been more appropriate between 1979 and 1983, from NATO's "dual decision" to the start of deployment. However then our wise Henry was mute.

The possibility of halving strategic arsenals, all the more, of completely abolishing them, has panicked him and his fellow thinkers still more. Quoted is Senator Nunn, who said: "If the Soviets took us up on President Reagan's proposal to eliminate nuclear ballistic missiles, every general in the Army and the Air Force, and probably some admirals, too, would have a heart attack."

Now these generals and politicians sigh with relief—the deadly danger has passed them by. What worries them, sad to say, is not the menace a supercritical concentration of nuclear weapons poses to the world, but that surprise axe which overhung nuclear armaments in Reykjavik. It has gone though! It is time now to again light a candle to the NATO strategy of flexible response based on the first-strike "right." And to put the fear of God into the White House, lecture it a couple of times to the effect that nuclear disarmament is utopian, moreover obnoxious, and that peace in Europe is maintained by the American nuclear capacity.

Today the worst, most perilous form of politicking is putting the logic of the djihad, the "holy ideological war" between West and East, before the objective of preventing a thermonuclear war, before the supreme stake of human survival.

Reykjavik provoked this self-exposure of the philosophy of safety that the West preaches and therein one more aspect of its significance. It is now clearer by far how greatly the "free world's" traditional thermonuclear religion conflicts with morality, common sense and the simple instinct of human survival.

In this arena stark politicking is fighting sane politics. In the upshot Washington is recoiling from Reykjavik and doing all it can to contaminate the atmosphere of Reykjavik.

More, at times one is inclined to ask: was not the U.S. Administration's peacemaking but a play for peaceful dividends from the public, a play it had taken too far? And was it not for this reason that at the eleventh hour President Reagan sidestepped accommodations, inasmuch as he does not really seek nuclear disarmament at all? ■

WHO NEEDS THE "TIT-FOR-TAT EXPULSIONS"?

Do we live in the year 1986? Well, not all of us. Some people have clocks showing times to which there would seemingly be no return. Sixty-five years ago the U.S. Administration performed an act that is hardly a feather in its cap. In 1921 (during the Woodrow Wilson presidency) the U.S. authorities expelled the first official Soviet representative, Ludvig Karlovich Martens, who two years previously had presented his credentials to the State Department.

Things were difficult for our diplomats in the early years of Soviet government: they were expelled and shot (remember the tragic death of Vatslav Vorovsky and Pyotr Voikov, and the legendary diplomatic courier Teodor Nette). The past decades have made it clear that other countries must respect our state if there are to be normal and civilized international relations. Alas, this is not universally understood.

One cannot help thinking that the present U.S. Administration officials consulted the dusty records of the Wilson era when they decided to stage another unfriendly act against our country—announcing the explusion of 55 members of the staff of the embassy and the Consulate General of the U.S.S.R. in the United States. Surely the masterminds behind this brazen action were not guided by the international documents laying down the universal norms of diplomatic relations. Nor did they proceed from the recent speeches of their own President, who has repeatedly assured that the U.S. wanted better relations with the U.S.S.R. In claiming that there was a "lack of parity" and that there are fewer U.S. diplomats in the U.S.S.R. than there are Soviet diplomats in the U.S., they did not bother to check the facts. And the fact is that there are about 460 people working in the U.S. embassy in Moscow and the U.S. Consulate General in Leningrad, while the corresponding Soviet institutions in the U.S. have a staff of about 300. In addition, as many as 500 people come to the U.S. embassy on a "temporary basis," and another 200 people come as guests of the Ambassador and other U.S. diplomats.

All right, if you want parity, let there be parity! The Soviet Union has notified the American authorities that henceforth the staff of the U.S. embassy and Consulate General may not exceed the level of the Soviet embassy and Consulate General. Furthermore, the number of diplomats sent to Moscow and Leningrad on a temporary basis is to be brought strictly into line with the number of such corresponding Soviet citizens. The number of private visitors to U.S. embassy officials is also to be limited. Finally, American diplomatic missions will no longer be allowed to hire personnel locally or from amongst citizens of third countries.

It is not, however, a question of the measures that we have been forced—I repeat, forced—to take. It is the American and not the Soviet side that initiated what one U.S. TV network called "the war of expulsions" on a tit-for-tat basis. Apparently some Washington officials would like to see relations between the countries worsen. But the Soviet Union does not play such games. To us, relations with the U.S. are not an object of games or "wars." Cardinal problems and the destinies of mankind depend on these relations, especially after Reykjavik.

This provides the clue to understanding the American actions. Those who are opposed to a constructive follow-up to Reykjavik seek to poison the international atmosphere in every possible way. Even by such unseemly actions thought up in the State Department and the White House and reminiscent of the grim traditions of the recent past.

L. BESYMENSKY

"The Hour of Truth"

came for many people in the F.R.G. after the Reykjavik summit

The people in the F.R.G. were looking forward with hope to news from the Icelandic capital and great was their disappointment when the meeting of the leaders of the two great powers had failed to produce concrete results. What made it even more poignant was that the Soviet Union and the United States had been closer to agreement on key disarmament problems than ever before thanks to the constructive proposals of the Soviet side and its readiness to make far-reaching concessions. Yet the chance was missed because the U.S. President would not budge one inch on his "star wars" programme.

"The hour of truth" came for the West Germans. They realized full well on the night of October 12 that the SDI programme was the main obstacle on the road to disarmament, to a world without nuclear weapons. "The hour of truth" also came for Bonn, which now has to explain how its avowed commitment to a "world with fewer and fewer weapons" tallies with involvement in SDI.

Going Back on Their "Terms"

Bonn was the first to lend support to SDI. Way back in April last year Chancellor Helmut Kohl, delivering a governmental address to the Bundestag, characterized the SDI programme as "justified, politically essential and meeting the security interests of the West as a whole." His enthusiasm, however, was not shared wholeheartedly even in the ruling coalition. The Free Democrats were sceptical and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said on more than one occasion that détente on Earth was incompatible with an arms race in outer space. Yet the junior partner in the coalition does not have much leverage and has to bow to the CDU/CSU Big Brother whenever there are differences of opinion. So the most the liberals achieved was the formalization of F.R.G. involvement in the U.S. military space programme as an "economic agreement." One more justification for the agreement was that without it the West German companies would be left on the sidelines of technological progress and miss lucrative contracts from the other side of the ocean. It has now become clear that all the hopes for multibillion profits are an illusion.

But what is even more important to the Bonn government today is the way its arguments in favour of SDI look in the light of the Reykjavik meeting.

The West German government has always tried to create the impression that it is taking Washington's cue not only out of the sense of "Atlantic solidarity." Bonn has always pretended that it is looking after the interests of the F.R.G. and Europe as a whole and caring for disarmament. That was why, while assuming a role in SDI, Bonn set certain terms, which were supposedly accepted by Washington.

Government officials claimed, for instance, that they viewed SDI as a purely research programme and that any decision "going beyond the research stage" should be taken only after the research itself is completed. Meanwhile, Bonn stressed, the ABM treaty should be respected.

In Reykjavik the Americans refused to confine "research" to laboratories but insisted on their "right" to develop and test ABM systems wherever they pleased, including outer space. All this is at odds with the letter and the spirit of the ABM treaty.

Bonn has always recognized the "relationship" between offensive and defensive weapons. Helmut Kohl said at the CDU congress in Essen last year that if drastic cuts in the offensive nuclear weapons of East and West were achieved, defensive systems in outer space would be "superfluous."

But Ronald Reagan announced in Reykjavik that SDI was an "insurance policy" needed only if both sides scrapped their offensive systems. Why the need for insurance?

If Bonn made its "terms" in all seriousness rather than to reassure the critical public, local observers say, it would have had to tear up the agreement on participation in SDI immediately after Reykjavik.

Yet the federal government has not done so, nor is going to.

A week after the Reykjavik meeting, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, accompanied by Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Defence Minister Manfred Wörner, travelled to Washington. Before their visit, Westdeutsche Allgemeine, which can hardly be suspected of "pro-Soviet sympathies," advised Helmut Kohl to convince the U.S. President that "there is no need for an arms race in outer space if the ground-based strategic missiles are scrapped."

But the Bonn delegation presented very different arguments to Ronald Reagan. It insisted that Washington should not "go too far" in cutting back the strategic missile force—otherwise NATO's strategy (based on the first use of nuclear weapons) would no longer be credible, and there was no discarding nuclear weapons in general.

As for SDI, the federal government still considered it "politically and ethically justifiable," though Helmut Kohl is reported to have asked President Reagan to honour the stipulations of the ABM treaty.

Bonn, however, gives a rather liberal interpretation to that treaty. Volker Rühe, the deputy chairman of the CDU/CSU faction in the Bundestag, for instance, criticized at a press conference on the results of the Reykjavik meeting the impermissible "narrowing" of the treaty. What he considers "impermissible" is the demand that SDI research be confined to laboratories.

Rühe echoed at the press conference the CDU's erstwhile argument in favour of the "cooperative decision" on anti-missile systems.

When I asked him to clarify his statement, Rühe said that the main point was strategic stability and that he was against one side having both a shield and a sword and the other only a sword. Each should have both. But does not this "cooperative decision" mean an invitation to another round of the arms race, this time in outer space? What sort of stability will we have then?

Another "Rearmament"?

A new "missile debate" flared up between the partners in the government coalition before the Reykjavik meeting. Washington asked Bonn's opinion of the U.S. "interim decision" on medium-range missiles and, although Bonn did not argue in favour of the total elimination of the missiles, a group of right-wing CDU/CSU parliamentarians, known as the Steel Helmet faction after a reactionary organization of the 1920s, decided that the American proposal went too far. Alfred Dregger, the chairman of the CDU/CSU Bundestag faction, who also leads the Steel Helmet zealots, "discovered"

Interaction

T. GURBADAM
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the U.S.S.R.

On November 5, 1921, People's Mongolia and Soviet Russia signed an agreement on the establishment of friendly relations between them.

We take pride in the fact that V. I. Lenin and Sukhe Bator, the leader of our revolution, took immediate part in working out and signing this agreement. The historic meeting between them took place in Moscow on the day of signing the document. Lenin's recommendations on matters of Party development and economic upbuilding helped determine the further road for the Mongolian revolution to follow. That memorable talk held out to the envoys of People's Mongolia, and all Communists, a scientifically substantiated prospect of the country's non-capitalist development.

Diplomatic relations between our two countries were established at the plenipotentiary representation level. Tushe-ghun Dava, the first Plenipotentiary of People's Mongolia in Soviet Russia (from December 30, 1922—in the Soviet Union), presented his credentials to President Mikhail Kalinin on June 2, 1922. In the same year, Nikolai Lyubarsky, the first Soviet Plenipotentiary, presented his credentials in Urga (now Ulan Bator).

The establishment of friendly relations with Soviet Russia contributed enormously to the strengthening of the young Mongolian state's positions on the international scene, to the development of cooperation between our two countries.

Soviet Russia not only annulled Mongolia's old debts and abandoned all the concessions, but also granted Mongolia, as early as January 1922, a credit of one million rubles. A trade agreement was signed in the middle of the following year. It was then that Mongolian-Soviet cultural and scientific exchanges had their start. In 1922, the Learned Committee of Mongolia established contacts with Soviet Russia's Academy of Sciences. The first young Mongolians went to study in Moscow, Leningrad and other cities.

Such were the early beginnings of our relations. Today Mongolia and the Soviet Union maintain close cooperation in virtually all spheres. This cooperation has borne fruit: new cities in Mongolia and new branches of the national economy. Its prospects are outlined in the long-term programme for the development of economic, scientific and technical cooperation between Mongolia and the U.S.S.R. over the period of up to the year 2000.

Unprecedented importance is attached today to direct contacts between Mongolia's oymags and the autonomous republics and regions of the U.S.S.R., between individual cities, ministries, departments, economic, research and cultural institutions, between public organizations of the two countries. These contacts provide excellent opportunities for the exchange of experience.

The U.S.S.R. renders Mongolia inestimable assistance in training skilled personnel for the national economy. Thousands of Soviet experts are in Mongolia giving us a helping hand in economic and cultural upbuilding. We also have the Soviet people's support in guarding the sacred frontiers of our motherland, in protecting our peaceful work.

Mongolia and the U.S.S.R. closely cooperate on the international arena. Fruitful cooperation between our two countries is a model of interstate relations in the Asian Pacific Region. The constructive foreign policy pursued by the CPSU and by the Soviet state, their fundamental initiatives such as the programme for the elimination of nuclear weapons by the year 2000, the proposal to set up an all-embracing international security system offer a real way to improve the political climate on earth. Mongolia is convinced of this and takes an active part in the world progressives' struggle to make these initiatives a reality.

another gap in the Western defences: according to him, the balance of forces in missiles with a range of 150 to 500 km is 600 to zero in favour of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. It is amazing that no one, not even NATO military experts, had noticed this before.

Dregger, backed by Defence Minister Wörner and other Steel Helmet members, said that the "interim decision" should cover tactical missiles as well.

Dregger's proposal clearly shows reluctance to make any compromises on disarmament, and that was why Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher insisted that the official reply to Washington should only mention Bonn's wish that talks on tactical missiles begin immediately after an agreement on medium-range systems is concluded.

Why did Dregger raise the question of precisely 150 to 500 km missiles? Merely because the U.S. Lance missiles deployed in Europe have a range of 130 km and the Bundeswehr's Pershing 1 missiles, 800 km. In this way they are not counted in the overall balance by a simple sleight of hand. Neither did Dregger mention other means of nuclear weapons delivery.

The Soviet Union proposed in Reykjavik that the Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe be totally abolished. The agreement that was in the offing undoubtedly met F.R.G. interests as well. Bonn officials have argued on more than one occasion that the only purpose of the "rearmament programme" was to build up a "counterbalance" to the Soviet SS-20 missiles and that there would be no need for Pershings and cruises if the Soviet missiles were removed.

In short, it was the "zero option," which was lauded to the skies here not long ago. That was precisely what the Soviet Union offered in Reykjavik, and what ought to have suited Bonn. But all sorts of doubts and reservations began to be heard from Bonn immediately after the Reykjavik meeting. Commenting on the mood in the government, the well-informed Frankfurter Allgemeine said that the "zero option" was doubtful militarily, while Horst Teltschik, the Chancellor's security adviser, held forth in an interview to the correspondent of that newspaper on the dire "threat" posed by Soviet tactical missiles and the West's "right" to counter it with a buildup of appropriate arms systems. Is Bonn poised for another "rearmament" drive?

Yet the current cabinet will now find it far harder to justify its stand on the missiles, advocate SDI and toe Washington's line. General elections are to be held in three months. The opposition parties are putting problems of peace and disarmament in the focus of their election campaign. Bonn, they say, shares in the responsibility for the historic chance having been missed in Reykjavik. A charge not to be taken lightly.

A. TOLPEGIN
our own correspondent

Bonn

U.S.S.R.—D.P.R.K.

Mutual Will

● THE TWO PARTIES AND STATES SHARE A COMMON APPROACH TO VITAL ISSUES OF PRESENT WORLD DEVELOPMENTS

A little over two years have passed since a party-and-state delegation from the D.P.R.K., led by Kim Il Sung, visited our country. He has now been in Moscow once again on a friendship visit at the invitation of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The results of the talks, Mikhail Gorbachev noted, are monovalent. They have once again reaffirmed the mutual wish to promote cooperation and the exchange of know-how in socialist construction in every conceivable way and to act in concert to secure a healthier situation in Asia and the Pacific and avert nuclear disaster.

The negotiators paid special heed to the situation in Asia. They said they were gravely perturbed by the mounting tensions in the region due to the hostile line that the aggressive forces of imperialism and militarism were pursuing. Mikhail Gorbachev and Kim Il Sung were convinced that coordinated action by Asia's progressive forces was most important in these conditions, in order to guarantee security and carry forward broad, mutually advantageous, genuinely equal cooperation in the continent.

In keeping with these objectives is the effort to alleviate tensions and normalize the situation in the Korean peninsula and secure the earliest solution of the Korean problem. It was stated in Moscow that the Soviet Union fully seconds D.P.R.K. efforts to have U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdrawn from South Korea, get the peninsula transformed into a nuclear-free zone of peace, and attain peaceful democratic national reunification without external interference. The new Soviet proposals on medium-range missiles in Asia, which were put forward at the Soviet-American Reykjavik summit, fully measure up to these noble goals, the leaders of the two fraternal parties emphasized.

V. GODYNA

U.S.S.R.—DENMARK

Key Issues in Focus

● THE MOSCOW DIALOGUE ACCORDS WITH THE INTERESTS OF ALL EUROPE

Poul Schlüter's visit to the U.S.S.R. came shortly after the Reykjavik summit, for which reason its results dominated the Soviet-Danish dialogue. Denmark was the first of NATO powers to have the opportunity of learning at first hand of the Soviet assessment of the summit and of discussing crucial international issues with the U.S.S.R.

In Denmark today, the results of the Schlüter visit are animatedly commented. "To Prime Minister Poul Schlüter's straightforward question as to whether the absence of results at the Reykjavik meeting meant that the thread had broken Gorbachev said No. This answer was addressed to the entire West, let alone the Danish Prime Minister," the influential bourgeois newspaper Politiken observed.

Besides promoting political understanding, Schlüter's U.S.S.R. visit, many analysts indicate, served to broaden bilateral commercial and economic contacts; major contracts were signed. However, good-neighbourly relations with the U.S.S.R. are not to everyone's taste in Denmark. Influential forces there seek to orientate the country's foreign policy to confrontation with the socialist world and make Denmark a cat's-paw in Washington's militaristic gambles. Aware of popular support for a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe, they have endeavoured to splash the bourgeois press with headlines of this order: "A nuclear-free North is of no interest" and "A Soviet No to a nuclear-free zone." How come? We are told that these problems received "inadequate notice" during Schlüter's talks with the Soviet leaders.

But, the question begs, who should have shown the initiative? As far as the U.S.S.R. is concerned, it has repeatedly stated preparedness to guarantee the status of such a zone should it be established, and implement certain measures in bordering regions. It is truly odd reasoning to accuse the U.S.S.R. of "heightened propaganda activity" with respect to a nuclear-free zone and at the same time reproach it of "being passive."

It would be appropriate in this connection to quote from the Danish Communist Party newspaper Land og Folk: "By its decisions Denmark's Folketing has mandated the government to work energetically for Northern Europe's conversion into a nuclear-free zone. However, at his Moscow talks the Prime Minister carefully side-stepped this issue."

That Conservative Schlüter's four-party cabinet is but coolly implementing the Folketing's anti-nuclear resolutions is no secret. In recent years the parliamentary majority, comprised of the Social Democrats, the Radicals, and another two left-wing parties, have adopted a range of decisions meeting the demands of the mass movement. Denmark has disavowed deployment of U.S. Euromissiles in Western Europe, "star wars" plans, and modernization of NATO's tactical nuclear armament. In conformity with the Folketing's decisions, the Danish government should advocate a nuclear test ban and a freeze on nuclear arsenals.

The Schlüter cabinet is willy-nilly obliged to abide by parliamentary resolutions and adopt a special stance in NATO. Denmark's reservations have evoked angry response from its senior partner in this alliance. "This was most sharply manifest during Poul

SUPG—SDPG

Crucial Decision

● FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE CORRIDOR IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Back in 1982 the Palme Commission, otherwise known as the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security, of which prominent statesmen and civic figures from many countries are members, proposed creating a nuclear-free corridor in the heart of Europe. This area, where the world's two most powerful military blocs stand face to face, is oversaturated with all types of weaponry including nuclear arms. The creation of a corridor between the two blocs would reduce the war danger in Europe and serve to consolidate mutual confidence. It could be the first move towards Europe's complete deliverance from nuclear weaponry.

Now the proposal has taken concrete shape. At a news conference in Bonn Hermann Axen, Politbureau member and Central Committee secretary of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and Egon Bahr, a member of the presidium of the executive of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, offered the public a document which the experts of the two parties had drafted. It is entitled "Th

Schlüter's Washington visit last year, when Secretary of State George Shultz lectured the Prime Minister on the subversive impact of Denmark's special comments as regards the unity of the Western defensive alliance," the newspaper Jyllands-Posten observed recently. At the same time it has pointed out that the U.S. was particularly angered by two circumstances, that the Danes do not believe the "Soviet threat" myth and that they "equate NATO with the Warsaw Treaty."

These views, which have incurred Washington's displeasure, are prompted by common sense, which requires Europeans to take jealous care of the preservation of peace in their common home. The post-Reykjavik Soviet-Danish dialogue represents one more contribution to that important effort.

I. BARANIKAS
APN correspondent,
exclusive for New Times

Copenhagen

NATO

Forcing an Open Door

● NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP: APPLAUSE AND UNCERTAINTY AT GLENEAGLES HOTEL

Right before the meeting there came conflicting signals of NATO's attitude to this event. Thus, at his news conference in Brussels on October 13, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said that the allies had approved "with pleasure" plans for cutting back on and abolishing nuclear weapons that had been discussed at Reykjavik. Yet on the very next day, diametrically opposite assessments came from the staff of General Bernard Rogers, supreme allied commander of NATO's forces in Europe, and several other sources.

It is commonly known that Washington's craving to possess "star wars" weaponry stonewalled the road to accommodations and thus kept on their feet the adversaries of disarmament. Still, even these unrealized proposals caused many NATO hearts to palpitate. Current in NATO is a joke that goes as follows: what could be worse than the ill-success in efforts to reach accommodations at Reykjavik? Success, it appears.

The displeasure that NATO strategists feel over the Iceland talks is manifest. Plans for the abolition of Euromissiles were most heavily lambasted. Even excerpted from the Soviet package, they provoked stormy response from the opponents of nuclear disarmament. On October 16 General Rogers' deputy, the West German General Hans-Joachim Mack, said the absence of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe would jeopardize the allied rapid response strategy, inasmuch as they would supposedly have nothing with which to "respond" to Warsaw Treaty's "overwhelming superiority" in conventional arms.

Ironically enough, the Nuclear Planning Group met at the same venue in Scotland, where the "zero option" had been sanctioned five years earlier. Naturally, the ministers could not publicly recant their own so widely advertised plan for eliminating U.S. and Soviet Euromissiles or disavow the U.S. President.

In the effort to reconcile the wolf with the sheep the Nuclear Planning Group announced in its communiqué that it advocated "the elimination of United States and Soviet longer-range INF missiles accompanied by other appropriate provisions."

Should this mean merely parity throughout all phases of disarmament, then NATO is simply trying to crash through an open door. At Reykjavik, the Soviet Union proposed that after medium-range missiles in Europe were eliminated, the number of missiles with a range of under 1,000 km should be immediately pegged and that this issue should be negotiated at once. Meanwhile abolition of nuclear weaponry is seen as part of the overall disarmament process, inclusive of both conventional and chemical weapons. West European governments continue to "express anxiety," without res-

'Principles for a Nuclear-Free Corridor in Central Europe."

The Principles specify that this corridor should be 300 km wide extending for 150 km on either side, to thus incorporate part of the territories of the G.D.R., the F.R.G., and Czechoslovakia. To be withdrawn from this area are not only nuclear warheads, but also their carriers, that is missiles, aircraft and artillery shells. Likewise to be withdrawn are dual-usage systems, implying systems that may be outfitted with either nuclear warheads or conventional charges. Measures of national and international control are provided for. Three years after this corridor is established, by which time the needed experience will have been amassed, other states could subscribe to the respective agreements, in which case the corridor would be still wider, becoming a nuclear-free zone.

"The nuclear-free corridor proposal relates to weapons systems that are not being negotiated at either Geneva or Vienna," Andreas von Bülow, chairman of the SDP Board's commission on security, told your correspondent. This proposal shows that Europe's smaller and medium states can contribute much to disarmament and stronger confidence should they so desire."

"Yet, the federal government has already rejected this initiative."

"That is, unfortunately, the case. On the one hand, government spokesmen talk of the 'threat' of Soviet short-range missiles, on the other, they object to the withdrawal of these missiles. There is no logic here."

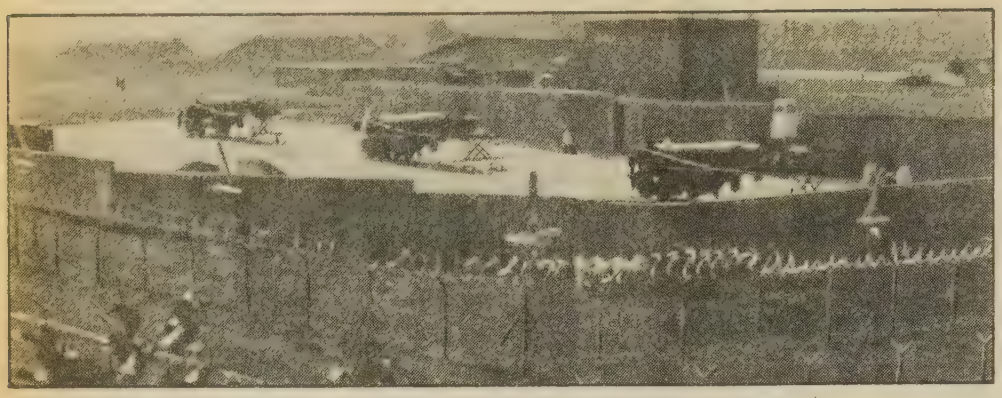
I was talking with von Bülow in the interval between meetings of the SDP's special convention held in Offenburg on October 25. This convention endorsed the government programme, presented by Johannes Rau, the candidate for chancellorship, which the Social Democratic Party will go by should it win the general election next January 25.

The convention stressed that the world faces the alternative of either the arms race at a qualitatively new level, or an agreement on major disarmament moves. Reykjavik showed that such agreements were feasible, but were blocked by U.S. reluctance to abandon plans for militarizing outer space. Rau said the Kohl administration's support of SDI was its gravest blunder, and reaffirmed intentions to revoke the agreement specifying the F.R.G.'s related involvement. He also advocated the elimination of all medium-range missiles in Europe.

Today security can be only reciprocal security. As Rau put it, both the SDP-SUPG proposal for a nuclear-free corridor and their draft treaty for a zone rid of chemical weapons fully accord with that.

Our own correspondent

Offenburg-Bonn



U.S. missiles in Europe.

Reproduced from Stern (F.R.G.)

ponding to the Warsaw Treaty's sweeping Budapest initiative.

In the view of the Financial Times, to accompany the elimination of Euromissiles with the elimination of conventional, chemical and tactical nuclear weapons may for long put off, if not torpedo, the nuclear disarmament process in Europe. A similar conclusion, more specifically, derives from the aforementioned emphasis on the Warsaw Treaty's "overwhelming superiority" in conventional armaments. Yet if we take into consideration all the components, not only the quantitative but also the qualitative aspects of conventional armaments, and not "forget" the French and Spanish military potentials, as Western experts so often do, the forces of the two sides would be seen as roughly equal. Such is the conclusion drawn, for instance, by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

At the Gleneagles Hotel meeting the idea of a new "dual decision" was proposed, La Libre Belgique reports. To "force" the Soviet Union negotiate with respect to the deployment in Europe of missiles with a range of under 1,000 km, "rearming" with U.S. missiles of a similar class is suggested. The advocates of the new "dual decision" are apparently in no whit taken aback by the fact that the U.S.S.R., as indicated, itself proposed without yielding to any pressure, to negotiate this issue—true, by reducing, not augmenting, such arsenals.

Put forward, according to Nouvelles Atlantiques, was a highly "original" option for the new "dual decision"—to remove one stage from the Eurostrategic Pershing 2s and thus reduce their range from 1,800 to 500-1.000 km. One does not have to be much of a military expert to realize that the removed stage may be swifty reinstalled when needed.

Nor do the "general political guidelines for the use of nuclear weapons" approved at Gleneagles bespeak NATO's desire to rid Europe of nuclear armouries. The new document, the NATO Report weekly notes, broadens the field for nuclear escalation. Thus, whereas before the possibility of a first "preemptive" strike by ground-based and airborne tactical means was envisaged, now sea-based means have been added. The old guidelines called for a strike at Soviet territory only in the case of a conflict developing into a global nuclear war. However, now a third stage of escalation has been inserted between the two previous, tactical and strategic stages of escalation, providing for the selective destruction of Soviet installations by Pershing 2s and cruise missiles that are deployed in Europe.

The Nuclear Planning Group's attitude to U.S. "star wars" designs is also double-faced. At Gleneagles several countries, firstly Denmark, Norway and Greece, were dissatisfied with the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative having blocked the attainment of large-scale accords at Reykjavik; they urged Washington to display greater flexibility in order to have this problem resolved. Meanwhile U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger argued that SDI was vital to Western security and to successful disarmament talks.

In their compromise formula, wherein Greece and Denmark have made reservations, the allies, on the one hand, demonstrate Atlantic solidarity with Washington, but, on the other, intimate that there is a limit to how far they will go in rendering support.

By appropriating authorship of the proposals discussed at the Reykjavik summit, the U.S. was applauded by the allied defence ministers who in their communiqué acclaim Washington for its "bold attempt to seek far-reaching control agreements." But will the Western public agree to that assessment? After all, the duality of the NATO stance and the already initiated retrenchment from Reykjavik bespeak reluctance to take the road of disarmament.

V. BOIKOV

Brussels

MOZAMBIQUE

Who Stands to Gain?

● THE CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING THE PLANE CRASH IN WHICH SAMORA MACHEL DIED FURNISH WEIGHTY REASONS FOR SUSPECTING A CRIME

The explanation for the crash, which South African officialdom so hastily trotted out, has aroused grave doubt. It was claimed that the plane, on which Samora Machel was returning from Lusaka in Zambia, had already neared Maputo, when it suddenly turned westward instead of eastward to enter South African airspace, where it crashed into a cliff, tumbled over several times, and blew up. It was alleged that the plane had supposedly strayed off course due to storm and heavy rain.

Yet if the plane crashed into a cliff, how come that ten of its 43 passengers survived? Moreover, the inhabitants of a village some half a kilometre away from the disaster area told newsmen that at the time there had been neither storm nor heavy rain.

The plane was indeed nearing the Mozambique capital when it suddenly swerved. Why so? It is quite likely, the director of the Pan-African news agency says, that by radiojamming the South Africans interrupted the plane's communications and forcing it to overfly South African territory, made it come within reach of the operations range of its missiles. Libération of Paris complements this assumption by reporting "a large military contingent doing something unusual" in the crash area. Read now what the killed president's slightly injured bodyguard has to say: "The stewardess told us to fasten our seatbelts in preparation for landing. All seemed

normal at that time and the plane carried on for five minutes. Then we heard the plane screech. It seemed like we were shot at. After this noise there was some kind of bang, all the lights went out, the engine failed, and the plane was flying blind for another three minutes until we hit the ground." The other surviving passengers also noted a noise like a shot.

What happened after the plane crashed? Replying, surviving TV cameraman Almeida Pedro related at a news conference in Maputo: South African police turned up at 2 a.m. to inquire whether this had been the plane on which Samora Machel had been flying. Then, instead of rendering urgent aid to the survivors, by sending them to the nearest hospital, they collected valises, money and papers (earlier reports said the South African authorities were extremely interested in the papers of the Lusaka meeting from which Samora Machel was returning). They took this all away. The injured received aid only 11 hours later. Pedro believes that some victims died for loss of blood. The President's bodyguard asked for the Mozambique authorities to be notified of the crash, but this was done only six hours later.

Regardless of the conclusions that the commission of inquiry draws, it will be hard to dispel suspicions of South African involvement. After all, Pretoria's special services and Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) terrorists had long sought to gun down Samora Machel.

Talking to a group of newsmen on October 11, Carlos Cardoso, Director of the Mozambique Information Agency, conjectured that Pretoria's generals might attempt to kill Samora Machel. The President of the People's Republic of Mozambique said an attempt of this nature had already been made in November 1985. "I stand in their way," he added, "as I simply will not compromise with anyone."

The tragic death of the Mozambican President coincided with a splurge of hostile South African actions against this country. The bomb blast in the South African province of Transvaal, being engineered in all likelihood by Pretoria's special services, was seized upon as the pretext to sharply attack the Mozambique government. South Africa's Minister of Defence Magnus Malan bluntly vilified Samora Machel and threatened a "frontal blow."

Samora Machel's death has made the ringleaders of the terrorist MNR gangs rub their hands with glee. They have declared that they will escalate subversion. South Africa's rulers and their hirelings will undoubtedly exploit Samora Machel's death to step up pressure against Mozambique, in the hope of changing its social system.

L. SKURATOV

BRITAIN—SYRIA

Playing into Tel Aviv's Hands

● LONDON HAS RUPTURED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SYRIA

On October 24 a British court sentenced the Jordanian subject Nezar Hindawi to 45 years of imprisonment on charges of trying to plant a bomb aboard an El Al aircraft at London's Heathrow airport last April.

After the verdict was made public the British Foreign Office immediately announced that Britain was breaking off diplomatic relations with Syria. Why Syria? Because, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Commons, Syrian Embassy officials in London had been supposedly involved in this attempted act of terror.

Washington responded by at once backing its British ally and recalling its ambassador from Damascus. Canada followed suit. Naturally, the Tory cabinet's move aroused greatest rejoicing in Tel Aviv, which has long been sharpening knives against Damascus.

The Syrian government has categorically rejected the attempt of the British authorities to make it "responsible" for what happened at the London airport. That Syria has repeatedly condemned international terrorism is common knowledge. All these accusations, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shareh declared, are totally unfounded.

Damascus believes this a carefully planned joint operation by U.S., Israeli and British secret services to provide ground for subsequent anti-Syrian punitive action.

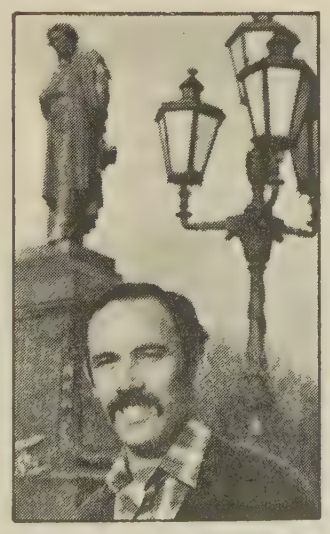
The charges "of terrorism" levelled against Syria have unquestionably been fabricated by the Israeli intelligence service, Chedli Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, declared. The League rejects this anti-Syrian calumny, he emphasized.

Imperialism not infrequently resorts to such fabrications. Recall, for instance, Washington's unbridled anti-Libyan campaign last summer, also on charges of terrorism. It subsequently transpired that this had all been done deliberately to misinform the world public. The purpose now is to discredit Syria.

It would not be out of place to recall here that the Tory government frankly abetted the U.S. raid on Libya in April by allowing U.S. bombers to take off from British territory.

Syria has retaliated by barring territorial waters to British ships and airspace to British aircraft.

A. USVATOV



OUR GUESTS

"I am happy that by winning the New Times quiz, I could come to the Soviet Union, dive into Moscow's noisy streets and meet Soviet friends." Edmundo Gonzalez, a Cuban, who lives in the province of Sancti Spiritus, is a sports leader, and concurrently an evening student at the Physical Culture Institute. Sports reporting is his hobby. "I will never forget this visit," he says.

Also visiting our weekly in October were George Martin, National Secretary of the France-U.S.S.R. Association, Director of the France-U.R.S.S. magazine, Datta Gupta of India and Hermann Scheibe of the G.D.R., who distribute our magazine in their respective countries, as well as Eva Kostova of the Bulgarian weekly Pogled, Karl Friedrich Reinhart of the G.D.R. magazine Horizont, Gabriell Schamall, Peter Kubina of the Slovakian newspaper Práca, and staff members of the Japanese, Hungarian, North Korean, Mongolian and Czechoslovak embassies in Moscow.

Seen here is Edmundo Gonzalez in Pushkin Square in Moscow.

Photo by V. Panov

Nadjib: Renewal in All Spheres of Life

Comrade NADJIB, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, replies to questions by New Times special correspondent Leonid Mironov

Comrade Nadjib, eight and a half years have passed since the April revolution of 1978. How do you define the main content of the present situation in the country?

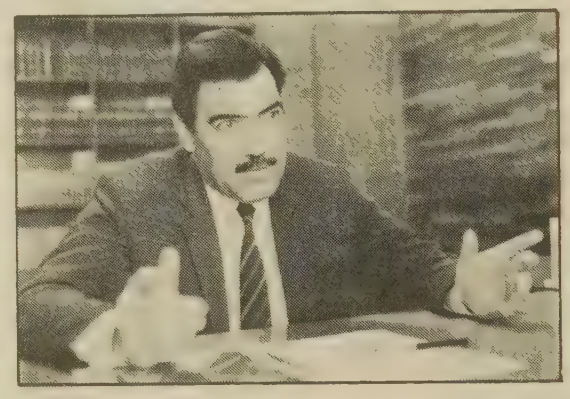
By its nature and content the April revolution is national-democratic, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist. It was carried out in pursuance of the national interests and the aspirations of the broad popular masses, in the name of the ideals for which Afghan patriots, progressive and democratic forces have struggled for many years.

A process of renewal is now taking place in all spheres of life—social, economic, political and cultural. The country is shaking off the fetters of feudalism, backwardness and ignorance. In the time since April 1978 the revolution has dealt a crushing blow to all forms of national and social oppression, to the feudal-bureaucratic regime that for centuries had doomed the people to a life of oppression and poverty.

Within a short period of time a state of a new type—a democratic republic—has been created on the ruins of backward feudal-bureaucratic Afghanistan, formerly ironically described by Western journalists as "a splinter of the Middle Ages wedged in amongst the Hindu Kush Mountains." The young working class and the broad masses of the peasantry now form the political basis of our society, and their firm alliance guarantees the safeguarding of the interests of all the other patriotic-minded sections of the population.

I would formulate the top-priority tasks facing the party and the republic at present as follows: the defence of our independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; the strengthening of the gains of the April revolution; the ensurance of broad and active participation of all working people and the other patriotic forces in the national-democratic transformations; and making Afghanistan a developed, flourishing state.

The democratic republic's enemies—the imperialists, regional reactionaries and counterrevolutionaries—are not above openly lying and resorting to malicious fabrications. They try to ascribe to the April revolution intentions that it never had; they gloat over the errors made by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and allege that we are stagnating. We are revolutionaries and for this reason are not afraid to speak about our weaknesses, and we do everything we can to overcome them.



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People from various provinces—workers, peasants, craftsmen and representatives of tribes—very often come to the Afghan capital. Recently, I understand, you and other members of the Political Bureau of the PDPA CC have designated certain days on which you receive these people. What do you talk about with them?

Not long ago I travelled to a number of provinces, visited many enterprises and addressed meetings. In short, I tried to have as much contact with people as possible. I also receive more than fifty people a month. To be closer to the masses—this is what we now demand of all PDPA officials. During our conversations with working people the most pressing issues and problems are dealt with. It also happens, of course, that people come with specific requests, which we do our best to fulfil. We must not isolate ourselves from the people, we must not hide from them in air-conditioned offices. People taken as a whole are wiser and more experienced than any leader. Therefore we must learn from them. All members of the Political Bureau of the PDPA CC take turns receiving the public at the Delkush palace every day. Incidentally, ordinary people used to be denied access to this palace.

In the course of your contacts with the Afghan working people have you noticed any changes in them?

Definitely. Considerable changes have taken place in people, in ordinary Afghan working people who are becoming the masters of their country. For instance, the workers and office employees of the Jungalak automobile repair plant, the house-building complex and mechanized bakery in Kabul and the textile mill in Bagram not only regularly fulfil and overfulfil their production assignments but also protect their enterprises round-the-clock from possible attacks by counterrevolutionary bands. In this country Friday is the day off. But the workers of these enterprises often come to work even on Fridays. Hashars, days of volunteer work somewhat similar to your subbotniks, are being increasingly practised in this country. Thanks to them schools and bridges have been repaired, streets cleaned, a hospital constructed in Balkh Province and dozens of homes built for the families of those who fell for the revolution. Out of the money earned during hashars these families were given material assistance amounting to more than 500,000 afghani. These few examples are evidence of the changes in our people, who are displaying a new attitude to work, to their people's state.

Frequently you meet with Afghan ulema. Don't they complain that the new regime is ignoring the country's religious specificities?

Such contentions of Western propaganda are totally false and cause re-

vulsion among our ulema, well-educated theologians, with whom I meet. Recently I went to the Ministry for Islamic Affairs and Waqfs and spoke to officials there. They had no complaints, only requests and suggestions. When on business trips, I visit mosques and talk to members of the congregations. We do everything to ensure the best conditions for the observance of religious rites.

The leaders of the counterrevolution use every opportunity to make shrill statements that they are sending "fighters for the faith" to battle for the "sacred Koran," which supposedly is in danger. These incantations are aimed at illiterate and ignorant people. A part of the population still falls for the exhortations of the counterrevolutionaries and Western propaganda, but this is mainly due to ignorance and backwardness. These people were downtrodden in the past and this tells. But more and more of our Moslems, when they learn what we are doing for them, are beginning to see the light. During the past five years 231 mosques were built and 1,026 repaired, with 270 million afghani of state funds spent on that. During the same period counterrevolutionary bands of "fighters for the faith" destroyed 254 mosques. During this time more than 25,000 Moslems went on pilgrimages to Mecca with state assistance. The state spent an average of 26,600 afghani on each pilgrim, a total of 726 million. Quite a large sum, as I'm sure you will agree. The D.R.A. government pays the salaries of 11,570 mullahs in 5,167 mosques. The state finances the theological department of Kabul University and 20 madrasahs (religious schools). Preparations for the opening of the Islamic Institute are in full swing in Kabul. As you see, genuine concern is shown for the needs of Moslems, but it is still being stubbornly claimed that we are oppressing somebody.

The social status of the overwhelming majority of the Moslem clergy in Afghanistan is close to that of the working population. That is why they are interested in ensuring social justice and in improving the working people's living conditions. The patriotic section of the clergy is actively joining the socio-economic transformations, supporting the aims and tasks of the national-democratic revolution and taking part in the work of the executive branches of state administration and public organizations.

The PDPA and the government are directing their efforts at overcoming economic and social backwardness. In March of this year Afghanistan started fulfilling a five-year plan. What place does this hold in the solution of these problems?

Despite the undeclared war unleashed against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the unceasing armed incursions by groups of bandits we are doing everything possible to develop the economy and improve the population's life. The five-year plan pursues precisely these aims. It provides for an accelerated development of the key branches of the national economy and raising the material and cultural standards of the people's life. We have worked out a programme for drawing local businessmen into economic development. By the end of the five-year period, we estimate, national income will have grown by 25 per cent, industrial output by 38 per cent and gross agricultural output by 14-16 per cent.

Though its fulfilment will require considerable effort, it is a realistic plan. I can say already that we have made a good start. For the first time all the industrial ministries are successfully coping with their assignments. The six-month plan of industrial output in the public and mixed sectors was fulfilled by 110.8 per cent. The private industrial sector is operating well. There are changes for the better in agriculture. New irrigated areas have been put to use and the state is giving effective assistance to peasants by providing them with credits, seeds and fertilizers.

The social sphere is being further developed. We are building new schools and hospitals, the enrolment of children in elementary schools is gradually growing as well as of students in establishments of higher and secondary education. We regard the economic front as being as important as the military one.

The nomads were always considered the most deprived part of the Afghan population. During my trips to Paktia, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Zabol and other provinces I saw numerous tent settlements serving as temporary camps for nomads. Will these nomads be encouraged to switch to a settled way of life? If so, how?

The Ghilizai, Durrani and some other tribes lead a nomadic way of life. They are all citizens of our republic for whom we must show concern. Eventually they will all become permanently settled. The development of socially backward areas where national minorities and nomads live will be accelerated, and these people will be ensured, on a just basis, their proper representation in the central and local state and public bodies, in the National Fatherland Front.

Late last August in Jalalabad you said in a speech, "We do not need war, enough! We must achieve accord, and respect mutual interests." With whom and on what basis is this accord to be achieved?

Among the pressing tasks of our policy we include the creation of such conditions throughout the country in which outstanding issues could be solved jointly, peacefully, without the use of arms, in an atmosphere of trust, cooperation and brotherhood, on the basis of ensuring national interests and national accord. Our policy, directed at expanding the revolution's social base, and our new approach to these matters, imply a readiness for broad cooperation on a national scale in the interests of the entire people. This readiness presupposes:

—the inclusion in the leading state bodies, i.e., the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers, of non-party people who command respect and express the interests of various sections and groups of the population;

—the broadening of dialogue with those groups that from a lack of understanding still hold hostile positions to the revolution but may be expected to repent their anti-national counterrevolutionary activities;

—the possibility of flexible compromises on a principled basis in the name of national accord, establishing peace in the country and ensuring its security.

We call on all our countrymen to take an active part in the country's historic renewal and national rebirth. The arms of the motherland are open to all countrymen who are abroad. In conditions of guaranteed security, respect for human dignity and absence of discrimination we will give them an opportunity to join the cause of building a flourishing independent Afghanistan.

Does any basis exist for settling relations with Pakistan?

We live with the people of Pakistan

Soviet soldiers back home from Afghanistan. TASS photo

in one region and wish to live in peace, to cooperate in he struggle against backwardness, for social and economic progress. History made us neighbours and neighbours should live peacefully, should not shoot at each other.

Afghanistan has never interfered in the internal affairs of other countries, including the internal affairs of Pakistan. We have always been opponents of such interference. But it should be noted that Pakistan has become a springboard of the undeclared war against the D.R.A. unleashed by the forces of imperialism and reaction headed by the United States. Every sensible person cannot fail to understand that such subversive activities damage both the Afghan and the Pakistani people. The peoples of our countries can benefit only from relations of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect.

I think there are no obstacles to improved relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, to our cooperation. The government of Pakistan should finally heed the will of its own people and stop serving as an accomplice in carrying out Washington's perfidious plans. We would like once again to draw the attention of the Pakistani authorities to the well-intended initiatives of the D.R.A., to the important step taken by the Soviet Union, which has just withdrawn six regiments of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in the country.

I am interviewing you on the day when the last of these six Soviet regiments is leaving Afghan territory. Do you think this measure is enough to stimulate a political settlement in the region?

Speaking in Kunduz at the send-off ceremony for a motorized infantry regiment, I said that this withdrawal was a step of good will that should become a new impulse for scaling down the undeclared war and stopping the aggression conducted from abroad. We hope that those who organize and carry out the armed intervention against us will appreciate this step. But they should also know that if this intervention continues our great friend, the Soviet Union, will not fail us in our time of need.

I thank you, Comrade Nadjib, for finding the time to give such detailed answers to my magazine's questions. Soon my country will be celebrating the 69th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. What would you like to say to the Soviet people through New Times on the eve of this holiday?

Our friendship with the Soviet Union is as eternal as the world we live in. It is vivifying as a stream of water. Years and decades will pass, our children and grandchildren will grow up and carry further the pure banner of friendship between our countries. We will always remember what the Soviet Union has done for our democratic republic, indeed, for all of us.

On the eve of the anniversary of the Great October Revolution, which opened a new era in the history of mankind, I convey on behalf of the entire Afghan people wishes of happiness and prosperity to our great friend—the people of the land of Lenin. ■

Formation of a Washington-Tokyo-Seoul Axis

Distribution of Roles

RAFIK ALIYEV

The idea of the triple alliance matured at the White House shortly after the U.S. defeat in Indo-China. Worried by the possibility of similar developments on the Korean peninsula, Washington took a closer look at its Far Eastern allies. The spotlight is now on two sides of the emerging "triangle": U.S. military cooperation with Japan and South Korea.

Japanese Springboard

In November 1978, the guidelines for Japan-U.S. defence cooperation were adopted, which ushered in a new stage in the development of Tokyo-Washington military ties. Japan pledged to take an active part in the planning of joint military operations, the establishment of emergency coordinating bodies, the gathering and exchange of intelligence and the formation of an integrated logistics system. Today the Self-Defence Forces have direct communications with the Pentagon and the U.S. armed forces' headquarters in the Hawaii, and there is a ramified network of committees and subcommittees to discuss joint military activities.

In December 1984, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Self-Defence Forces and the commander of the U.S. armed forces in Japan signed a protocol on military cooperation in the event of "emergencies." The protocol was regarded in Tokyo as of momentous importance, for it envisaged joint operations by the two countries' armed forces within a 1,000-mile radius, far beyond the zone of the Japanese Isles.

The U.S. attaches special importance to its bases, above all the Kadena air base in Okinawa, used by C-141 transport planes capable of carrying containers with nuclear warheads, and KC-135 refuelling planes, which are to enable B-52 strategic bombers flying from Guam to reach the Soviet Far East. On an earlier occasion, New Times already reported that F-16 fighter-bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons were being stationed at the Misawa base, in the northern part of Honshu Island.

U.S.-Japanese military cooperation has practically ceased to differ from that between the U.S. armed forces and those of the European members of the North Atlantic alliance. It is not accidental that Japan is more and more often referred to as the "seventeenth NATO member."

Seoul Angle

The U.S. is also rapidly expanding its military ties with the Seoul regime. More than 42,000 American troops and over 700 nuclear charges are deployed in South Korea. Cruise and Pershing missiles are being set up. In the spring of this year U.S. and South Korean leaders agreed to establish stores of binary chemical weapons there. Additional U.S. armour units, Lance missiles and F-16 planes are to be deployed.

The Team Spirit joint military exercises have been held for ten successive years now. This year, 200,000 South Korean and U.S. troops, including units stationed in Japan, took part. Deliveries of military equipment to Seoul are being stepped up. In particular, it is planned to supply AWACS planes. Financial aid for military purposes to Chun Doo Hwan's regime is to reach $232 million this year.

Tokyo has always held that the Korean peninsula is vitally important for the security of Japan. And yet it was in no hurry to develop close ties with Seoul, especially in the military sphere.

South Korea's constant complaints about the chronic unfavourable trade balance is a source of serious friction. Conflicts with South Korean companies have forced some Japanese firms to withdraw their investments. There is also the long-standing territorial dispute over the island of Taka-shima, claimed by both countries.

Not everybody in Tokyo subscribes to the U.S. idea of a triple military-political alliance. Farsighted political leaders favouring a peaceful solution to the problems of the Korean peninsula advocate the creation of a political atmosphere that would help safeguard the security of all Far Eastern states.

The visit to the United States by the head of the Seoul regime in February 1981 and the May 1986 visit to Washington by the Japanese Prime Minister were used by the White House for bringing pressure to bear on the partners to make them settle their quarrels. In addition, aid for South Korea was demanded from Japan.

On his return to Tokyo the Prime Minister declared that consolidation of ties with South Korea was a priority foreign policy need.

Tokyo promised Seoul large-scale help as compensation for its "contribution to the defence of Japan and the whole free world." Notably, it was only in 1983-84 that the Japanese Prime Minister and the head of the South Korean regime exchanged visits for the first time since World War II.

Contours of the Alliance

Meeting in Seoul in September 1984, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff General K. Watanabe, South Korean General Lee Ki Pek and commander of the joint U.S.-South Korean forces General William Livsey drew up a "schedule" for "defence" cooperation by the three states.

Since 1984, cooperation within the "triangle" has assumed an increasingly military character. The South Korean air force took part in the U.S.-Japanese exercises held at the Kadena air base in July 1984. In August of that year, South Korean officers participated in the U.S.-Japanese air and naval manoeuvres simulating hostilities in the Korean peninsula. Staff officers of the Self-Defence Forces now attend Team Spirit exercises as observers.

Under the Pentagon's operational and tactical plan, in the event of hostilities in the Korean peninsula, strategic offensive operations are to be conducted by the United States, while Japan is to provide its territory as an operational base, and the South Korean troops are to maintain internal order.

Finally, a few words about the Far Eastern "regional defence initiative," a matter raised by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz in Seoul last June. It aims, in effect, at involving Japan and South Korea in Washington's Strategic Defence Initiative. To set up the planned system of space-based weaponry, the U.S. needs Japan's advanced optical, laser, electronic and computer technology. The Pentagon also counts on South Korea's contribution to the Strategic Defence Initiative, especially in radioelectronics and in the metallurgical and chemical industries.

The establishment of the militarist "triangle" means the creation of a source of military danger in the Asian-Pacific region. The neighbouring states are naturally worried. Mikhail Gorbachev expressed concern over the situation in the region, specifically on the Korean peninsula.

As regards the Korean peninsula, in particular, the measures aimed at turning it into a nuclear-free peace zone proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea seem to provide the basis for normalizing the situation. For such a zone to become a reality it is essential to withdraw the U.S. troops from South Korea, replace the armistice agreement with a peace treaty, work out a North-South non-aggression declaration, stop the holding of large-scale military exercises in the peninsula and promote peaceful dialogue between the two parts of Korea.

The situation on the Korean peninsula and the attempts at hammering together a Far Eastern version of NATO are the most dangerous factors of destabilization in the Asian-Pacific region. Speaking in Vladivostok, Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out the concrete ways to neutralize them: reducing the level of nuclear confrontation, stepping down the activity of naval fleets in the Pacific, cutting armed forces and conventional arms in Asia, working out confidence-building measures, and refraining from the use of force in the region. ■

PEOPLE ON THE WORLD SCENE

ERROL WALTON BARROW

Errol Walton Barrow, who has become Prime Minister of Barbados as a result of his Democratic Labour Party's victory at the general elections, was born in Barbados on January 21, 1920. A prominent statesman and politician, a U.S.- and British-educated expert in economics, Errol W. Barrow saw action in World War II as a British Army serviceman.

After the war, Errol W. Barrow took up politics. In 1951-55 he, then a member of the Barbados Labour Party, was repeatedly elected to Parliament. After the party had split, he joined the Democratic Labour Party which had appeared on the political scene in 1955, and became its chairman in 1960. In 1961-66 Errol W. Barrow held the post of Minister of Finance, and in 1966-76 headed the cabinet.

The party of which Errol W. Barrow is the leader comes out for the development of the national economy and for the country's independence in foreign policy matters. It renounces the policy pursued by the previous administration which had given unqualified support to the U.S. aggressive policy in Central America and the Caribbean and actively connived at the aggression against Grenada organized by the United States from the territory of Barbados in October 1983. In its political programme the DLP points out that the territory of Barbados is not to be used for purposes detrimental to the neighbouring states' interests. The DLP is against the American plans for the further militarization of the Eastern Caribbean countries.

● SENSATION

THE SKELETONS IN THE MI5 CUPBOARD

British-born Peter Wright, who now lives in Australia, has written a book. But he can't get it published as the British government is against.

Peter Wright is the former deputy director of MI5, Britain's counterintelligence agency. His book is about this agency, or rather its unlawful operations, the "skeletons in its cupboard." Thus, Wright contends that MI5 bugged French and West German embassies in London. He details how its operatives eavesdropped on closed diplomatic meetings in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1956 MI5 was involved in a plot to assassinate Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, while in 1974-76 Wright's colleagues plotted against U.K. Prime Minister Harold Wilson (sic) and also tried to break into Soviet consulates.

The Thatcher government has obtained legal rulings barring the publication in Britain of even excerpts from the book. It is also against the publication of Wright's memoirs in Australia, where it has initiated a lawsuit in this connection.

To prevent newsmen from covering the proceedings, the Tory government asked the Australian court "to treat the allegations made in the book as being true." The London Guardian at once published an item headed "Britain Admits MI5 Allegations." However, London claims that this was done "for limited procedural purposes."

● PORTRAIT

ENTER REHNQUIST

"Pretty low" is what one should read today over the Supreme Court building in the U.S. Moreover, it should bear the signature of William Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States. For that is neither publicity nor a personal attack on the Chief Justice, but merely a quotation of his, as "pretty low" was almost the first thing he said in his maiden appearance in court when addressing lawyers representing one more impoverished, harassed Amerindian tribe. Actually hearings had not yet commenced and, strictly speaking, nobody had asked the Chief Justice to return the verdict in advance. At any rate, the lawyers took note of his hint, and shortened speeches to a couple of paragraphs.

In a nutshell, Amerindians have a pretty low chance in the Supreme Court, while the Honourable William Rehnquist is Chief Justice.

Justice Rehnquist's understanding of things is well reflected on a house owned, with the placard barring "members of the Hebrew race."

Hence, neither blacks nor the yellow-skinned need throw away money on lawyers, inasmuch as in Rehnquist's view America's Hispanics and blacks were born much later than those "born equal" under the Bill of Rights. Once Rehnquist took charge of election arrangements in Phoenix, moreover in a neighbourhood inhabited by ethnic minorities. They had intended to vote Democrat, but Rehnquist always votes Republican, as his name begins with the letter "R." At any rate, nearly all the blacks and Hispanics were proved illiterate and were barred from voting. Some complained later that Rehnquist had threatened fearful judgement against them.

Finally, there are the "Reds," the pacifists and sundry other liberals who want to give peace a chance. It remains though for Chief Justice Rehnquist to say what he thinks, or rather return the relevant verdict. After all, he has already sent the Justice Department memos to justify the illicit telephone tapping and surveillance of American "radicals."

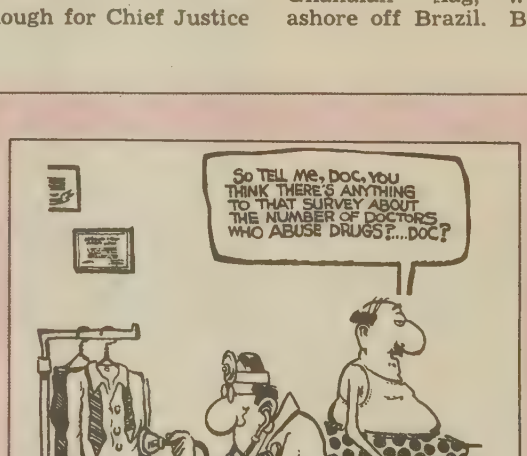
Who gave Rehnquist the chance to decide a person's lot? The Republicans and the President himself. Despite his scandalous reputation and despite an unprecedented proportion of Senators voting against him, he has nevertheless become Chief Justice.

The rehnquists enjoy pretty high chances in Washington today.

● EXPOSÉ

THE NOBISTOR MYSTERY

Last March the Nobistor, a Panama-registered ship flying the Ghanaian flag, went ashore off Brazil. Bra-



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SHADES OF LUCIFER

The Middle Ages and this 20th century.

Reproduced from Stern (F.R.G.)

Lucifer still enjoys a pretty wide following in the West. According to Gallup polls in France, Norway and Greece, respectively 17, 38 and 67 per cent believe in the fallen angel, while some 10 million Americans have taken a hand at least once in a Black Mass, witchcraft or blood-drinking orgy.

A Rock Island, Illinois, priest claims that the devil fashion is as greatly endemic as drug addiction and porno. Indeed, in the U.S. today one may buy a course in magic or a palmistry manual for a couple of dollars, and if desired intricate equipment for recording messages straight from hell.

In Western Europe we find still more fanatical admirers of Beelzebub. Thus, the Church of Satan has its headquarters in Manchester, while the Asmodeus Society and the Church of the Last Judgement boast "congregations" in Italy and the F.R.G. Experts claim that some 20,000 West Germans are devoted adherents of Lucifer, while 6.8 million, or about 11 per cent of the total population, think that there are witches. These witches or rather "new witches" are multiplying with secret covens in some 70-odd cities and towns. With broomstick exchanged for Mercedes, these wealthy satanists unburdened by worldly cares congregate for mystic Walpurgis nights in woodlands during which they experience trance-like states, dance naked round fires, and enter into "contact with natural and cosmic forces."

The devil mania has afflicted children too with some 7,000 teenagers worshipping the cloven hoof. Actually this is a cult of power and might. In a sacrificial ritual at the close of last June in a wood near Lüdinghausen in western F.R.G. Rene, 16, and Elsa, 14, of a small Friends of Lucifer sect slit open the veins of a 15-year-old friend.

West German courts hear annually from 60 to 70 cases of crimes committed out of superstition. These include murder, arson, maiming, cruelty to animals, etc. Still, in the F.R.G.'s entire history not one satanist "professional" has been convicted. In Bavaria the authorities do not at all invoke laws prosecuting persons engaging in exorcism and witchcraft.

No wonder, as today, unlike the Middle Ages, sorcerers cannot be condemned without passing judgement on the society in which they live.

ABORTIVE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Three Sikhs resident in Britain have been accused of "plotting to kill Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi during his visit to Britain in October 1985." The attempt was blocked by two British detectives masquerading as hitmen of the Irish Republican Army.

DESCENDED FROM THE PROPHET

Harold B. Brooks-Baker, one of the publishers of Burke's Peerage, claims that Queen Elizabeth II is a direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammed, founder of Islam. He contends that the genealogical tree stems from the Prophet to Spain's one-time Arab rulers and thence to the kings of Portugal and Castille from whom the 15th-century English King Edward IV descends. Having notified Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of this circumstance, he urges redoubling protection for the royal family.

MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY!

To safeguard himself against burglary small-time Miami shopkeeper Prentice F. Rasheed contrived an electrical trap. When Odell Hicks, 27, sought to pinch a trifle he was electrocuted. Rasheed has been charged with unpremeditated manslaughter, but has been released on a $6,500 bail put up by "compassionate" businessmen.

TREE HOME

Over the past eight years homeless Bob Redman, 22, has constructed 13 tree houses in Manhattan's Central Park. As such "houses" are forbidden, their maker camouflaged them by means of green paint and branches. He even invited guests provided they did not smoke or shout. Some of these modern-day Tarzan huts existed a whole year before park guards uncovered them. Redman himself was caught only now when his 13th tree house was discovered.

FOREST ARSON

In Spain some 2 million hectares of forest have burned down since 1978, it was estimated. Nearly half of the 65,000 forest fires were due to premeditated arson, the Spanish journal Cambio 16 reports. They were engineered by land sharks to knock down real estate prices, by timber merchants to boost revenues by planting more valuable species on burnt out plots, or by smugglers in frontier zones to divert borderguards and police from contraband routes.

TEXAN WATERGATE

The bugging device uncovered in the office of an aide of Bill Clements, the Republican candidate running for Texas state governor, has been placed with the FBI in Washington. Clement's staff claim that now their Democrat rivals, led by the incumbent Governor Mark White, who defeated Clements at the 1982 elections, have full knowledge of their election strategy.

COINING A PROFIT

In Japan ten million gold and silver jubilee coins, worth 100,000 and 10,000 yen respectively, have been minted to mark the 60th anniversary of Emperor Hirohito's enthronement. Only the winners of a special lottery will be allowed to acquire the gold coins, minted in the country for the first time in 54 years. The government hopes to profit thereby to the tune of 500 billion yen.

From Helsinki to Vienna

ALEXANDER LEBEDEV

On November 4, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe opens in the Austrian capital. To what extent have the Helsinki decisions taken 11 years ago been realized? What influence do the results of the Stockholm conference and the Soviet-American summit in Reykjavik exert on the preparation of the Vienna conference?

The previous conference began exactly six years ago in Madrid. At that time the onset of a new cold war seemed inevitable and its icy winds were freezing the political climate on the continent and in the world. This affected the work of the Madrid conference.

And yet the edifice of European détente and cooperation has withstood foul weather. Madrid even managed to make a step forward by deciding to convene a Conference on Confidence and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe, which began its work in January 1984 in Stockholm. There was, however, little to inspire optimism: the U.S. and some of its allies immediately forced a confrontation.

Zigzags of the Helsinki Process

The situation in other forums held pursuant to the Madrid conference was not very promising either. This is thoroughly documented in the report "From Madrid to Vienna" recently prepared by the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation.

For example, the meeting of experts on the peaceful settlement of disputes held in Athens in March-April 1984 revealed diametrically opposite approaches to methods of political settlement of conflicts.

Human rights experts, who gathered in Ottawa the following year, failed to come up with a final document.

The cultural forum of the CSCE member states held in Budapest in October-November 1985 failed to arrive at a common platform because of the stand taken by some Western delegations.

Last spring, the Berne conference on human contacts, which lasted almost two months, saw Washington impose a tough, sometimes provocative character on the discussions. True, common sense and the apparent reluctance of most West European countries to see the Helsinki process reach a total impasse seemed to give a glimmer of hope. The draft final document was unanimously approved, including by the American delegation, on the night before the conference ended. But within hours of the closing ceremony the U.S. representatives declared that they had received Washington's instructions to oppose the document.

Things were not much better in the sphere of economic cooperation, the "second basket" of the Helsinki accords. Although economic ties are usually sealed by contracts, often long-term, and disrupting them is usually counterproductive, this did not seem to deter the U.S., which hoped that damages would come out of West European pockets. The U.S. launched a veritable "economic war," resorting to a system of discriminatory measures, embargoes and illegal sanctions.

On the whole, the state of the all-European process after Madrid was not very encouraging, especially considering that all this took place against the background of a general worsening of Soviet-American relations, virtual lack of progress at disarmament negotiations and calls for an anti-communist crusade and deployment of combat systems in outer space.

So it seemed that the Stockholm conference was anything but hope-inspiring. Was another impasse in the offing? This has not only been avoided, but major success has been achieved.

The Stockholm agreement may not seem to be all that impressive when viewed in terms of the global threat of nuclear destruction facing mankind. It is true that the armies of the countries participating in the conference will not be cut by a single soldier or a single gun. Yet, it comes after many years of absence of any agreement in the delicate military sphere. The principle of the non-use of force, notably armed force, has been formulated in concrete terms. A basis is being created for bringing down the dangerous level of military-political confrontation in Europe and for initiating real cuts in armed forces.

The Stockholm conference produced an agreement on military confidence measures at a time when the tide of mistrust, suspicion and hostility seemed impossible to contain. Moscow gave credit to Washington for displaying a constructive approach and, at the 11th hour, removing certain conditions preventing the adoption of a final document. Thus, the U.S. agreed to notify the other side of the movement of its troops to Europe. The Soviet Union has agreed to open the whole of its European territory up to the Urals for inspection (without getting the right to inspect, say, parts of U.S. territory).

In short, a compromise has been achieved from which everyone gains equal dividends. This applies to large and small countries, members and non-members of military blocs, neutral and non-aligned countries. The agreement is the combined result of the individual efforts of each of the 35 states and their general good will.

What other factors ensured a notable shift in the all-European process in the critical sphere of military security? Of no small importance was the reappraisal by some West European leaders of the situation on the continent and in the world, and the prospects of international development.

Where the Watershed Runs

The Paris newspaper Libération wrote: "In Stockholm, to ensure the success of the conference, the U.S. had to make decisive concessions under direct pressure on the White House from the British and West German governments." The newspaper wrote that "London, Paris and Bonn have grounds to be satisfied."

If one is to proceed from the traditional though outdated clichés, difference among NATO allies should please Moscow. However, Soviet policy is not based on the narrow-minded principle that making things hard for the neighbour is more important than making things good for yourself.

If the White House had indeed been subjected to pressure from this side of the Atlantic this was done in the interests of London, Paris, Bonn and Rome, not of Moscow. And if Washington felt that the Stockholm accord threatened its security it would undoubtedly have resisted the pressure.

The reasons for the change lie elsewhere. Let us cite the authoritative opinion of Admiral James Eberle, director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. According to him, those who say that Western Europe has come to doubt the theory of the global military threat coming from the U.S.S.R. were correct. There were, he said, divergencies between West European and U.S. global policies.

One should not oversimplify the developments in this area. The watershed in the West on the issue of détente and disarmament does not run somewhere in the mid-Atlantic. The line is far more tortuous. In Britain, for example, Timothy Renton, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as if to justify himself before the American "hawks" (and probably before the British government as well), declared that the Stockholm accords were the

The Hofburg Palace, where the meeting will take place.

result of Western "firmness" and the presence of U.S. Pershings and Tomahawks in Europe.

This is a dangerously mistaken interpretation if one considers its possible political consequences. It is challenged by influential quarters in Britain, the F.R.G., and other West European countries. The British Labour Party, for example, has said that if it wins the election it will remove the cruise missiles from the country. In the F.R.G., the Social Democrats promise to withdraw from collaboration with the U.S. on "star wars" if they come to power. Greece and Denmark have their reservations concerning NATO's strategy in Europe. The neutral countries too have their own point of view.

Inside the United States, while some high-ranking officials are inclined to dismiss the Helsinki process as a whim of the Europeans, others, for various reasons, say that ways must be found to reduce the armed forces and armaments in Europe, including those of the U.S.

In this context, the reaction of some West European political forces to the results of the Reykjavik meeting is symptomatic. The official London and Bonn position has been to back Reagan's stand. The participants in the meeting of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group must have heaved a sigh of relief, as the bloc's doctrine remains intact inasmuch as strategic nuclear weapons are not to be dismantled in the foreseeable future. Some quarters in Britain and France feel there is no cause to grieve, because these countries will retain their nuclear capabilities for some time. In fact, one could expect both countries to have duly appreciated the significant concessions the Soviet Union made in Reykjavik by agreeing to leave the British and French nuclear forces out of count, although it is clear against whom they are directed. Moreover, the U.S.S.R. is prepared to conduct separate nuclear arms negotiations with London and Paris.

It looks as if some West European leaders are pleased that no agreement on medium-range missiles has emerged from Reykjavik. And yet when these missiles were being deployed, West European leaders said in unison that as soon as Soviet SS-20s were dismantled there would be no need to have U.S. Pershings and Tomahawks in Europe. But now they don't want to part with these missiles.

There are, however, nuances in the official pro-Reagan position taken by many West European governments. For example, London and Bonn are trying to talk Washington out of breaking the ABM treaty. Practically all the European allies of the U.S. call for continued search for an agreement on the basis of the common ground achieved in Reykjavik.

The leading opposition parties have all reacted in a similar way. The SDPG, the British Labour Party, the influential political circles in other West European countries blame the U.S. President for the lack of results at the Reykjavik meeting.

Which trend in West European politics is likely to gain the upper hand as regards the prospects for military détente and disarmament in Europe?

Denis Healey, a leading British Labour Party member, feels that "too many NATO governments which are strongly against Star Wars have been pussyfooting around and not making their views clear. But," he added, "the chances for reaching agreement on disarmament are too good to miss and all the European members of NATO must join those in Washington of all parties who believe that President Reagan's position on Star Wars is not a valid one and is the major obstacle to ending the arms race."

A similar stand was taken by the West German Social Democrat leaders. "The failure of the Reykjavik meeting because of SDI is a blow and a challenge to Europe," declared the presidium of the SDPG. "European initiatives are now more necessary than ever. The ball is now in Europe's court."

Tired of Uncertainty

Europe must solve its problems itself. Let us get the matter straight immediately: there is Western Europe and Eastern Europe, there is NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization, and there is neutral Europe, which is outside of the blocs. This mixed assemblage of states constitutes our continent. The Stockholm conference has reaffirmed that the European states have common interests. Awareness of this community of interests is not easy to achieve, and not because of ideological differences. These differences are not an obstacle, because they are irrelevant to interstate relations, especially in the face of the common threat of death in a nuclear war. There is a consensus in Eastern Europe that removing that threat is the top priority of socialist foreign policy. Hopefully, the West too will manifest its solidarity not by assuming a stance of collective hostility towards socialism, but by joining it against the arms race and in favour of détente. This seems to be the field where Europe can best play its specific, and weighty, role in world politics.

Blocs on the European land are a reality. The Warsaw Treaty countries want to see this reality gradually overcome through a series of measures leading to reliable and equal security for all the states on the continent. Many concrete proposals coming from the East have been met with understanding and support in some West European countries, who have actually joined in some of these proposals, such as the idea of nuclear-free zones being established in Europe.

James Eberle is correct when he says that the nuclear weapon has ushered in the era of new strategic thinking, and that in these conditions Western Europe sets far greater store by its relations with Eastern Europe today than in the 1960s and 1970s. In other words, European states are steadily, if slowly, becoming more aware of their political community. This trend stems partly from historical, geographic and cultural factors, but above all from the realities of the nuclear and space age.

The awareness that old international political methods are unsuitable and that unorthodox approaches have to be developed (this is what the concept of new thinking is all about) undoubtedly calls for a new philosophy of international relations. The adoption of this philosophy in relations between states belonging to the two systems need not undermine the belief of any of them in the validity of its own world outlook, nor does it put into question loyalty to allied commitments.

No one stands to lose if Europe formulates a common policy on some issues on the basis of détente and in keeping with the Helsinki process. This policy cannot be visualized as isolated from the global situation, i.e., as a manifestation of European egocentrism. Experience has demonstrated only too well that European détente underwent considerable strain whenever regional conflicts outside the continent flared up. But experience has also shown an even stronger impact—both negative and positive—that the European situation exerts on the overall political climate in the world.

In short, Europe must become what it really is. This lends added relevance to the words in the above-mentioned report, "From Madrid to Vienna": "A mass of evidence has piled up to show that Europeans are fed up with the strains and stresses of confrontation and tension. The European public is eager to rid political thinking of the view that Europe is a 'war theatre.' The continent must be a model of cohabitation of sovereign and disparate but peace-loving states conscious of their interdependence and maintaining mutual relations on a basis of confidence." And, one might add, consious of the global responsibility of Europe as a continent that has a major contribution to make to a comprehensive international system of security.

Europeans hope that Vienna will bring them closer to this goal. ■

From bloodletting to letting off steam—this is what Washington's model for Haiti boils down to

Election Fuss

General Henry Namphy—a neatness, order and gold-bracelet fiend, the head of the military-civilian junta—turned up in the white Port-au-Prince government mansion at noon. He smiled but didn't do much else. An obvious temporary, Namphy pays himself $10,000 a month for the job of "gracing," by his presence, the ceremony of a downtrodden and tormented Haiti being wed to bourgeois parliamentarism. The show is stage-managed by Washington: according to the Italian magazine Panorama, the U.S. embassy is the main "nerve centre" of Haiti with Ambassador Clayton McManamy having the say-so in all its affairs.

On October 19 Namphy knocked off another job assigned to him—conducting elections to the Constitutional Assembly.

Official election returns took more than a week to come through, but one didn't have to wait that long to see that the citizens were totally apathetic right from the start. Nearly two thirds of the electorate stayed away from the polls for a variety of reasons. Father and son Duvalier shattered not only the people's faith in, but also whatever illusions they had about, representative institutions. What's more important, the Haitians knew for certain that the "national government council" had neither intended, nor had Washington's permission to as much as initiate any reforms in the interests of the popular masses.

Nevertheless, the Assembly was scraped together somehow. Twenty of its members will be junta-appointed. The deputies are to look into a draft constitution drawn up by a special government committee. Upon being endorsed, the draft will be submitted to a referendum early next year. Municipal elections are scheduled for June, and presidential elections—for November 1987 (tentatively).

Such is the scenario, but what's the big idea? Washington surely has some designs on Haiti: it is now more anxious than it used to be under the Papa and Baby Docs' reign not to let go its grip on the situation there.

Scared by what has happened in Nicaragua, the United States seeks to replace the rotten-through dictatorial regime by the tested "representative democracy" system specialized not in bloodletting but in letting off the steam of popular protest.

Pushing "Democracy"

The way this plan is being put into practice is fresh evidence of the fact that the U.S. Latin American policy is anything—reactionary, imperial, egoistical—but primitive. It is no accident that the shrewdest brains have been assigned to making it. Suffice it to say that the two-party commission on Central America is headed by Henry Kissinger, an old diplomatic hand. It looks as if the 200 staffers of the U.S. embassy in Port-au-Prince know their onions, either.

In order to carry their plan through smoothly, without undue excesses, the Americans have got down to putting together the framework of the would-be multiparty system. They inculcated in Jean-Claude Duvalier the idea to legalize the opposition (the Communists excluded, of course) with the result that in August 1979 (within a month of the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution) there emerged two legal opposition parties in Haiti—Christian Democratic and Social Christian (dozens of parties are functioning there now). It was on Washington's instructions, too, that Duvalier Jr. arranged the first municipal elections ever in the history of the regime in 1983.

In the transitional period the lead was entrusted to the military who compared favourably with tontons macoutes—the sinister gendarmes. On the whole, the Haitian military did not compromise themselves by complicity in the terrorist outrages perpetrated by the Duvalier clan. Over 28 years of the dictatorship the army was used in roundups only—and even that on just a few occasions. When riots—the biggest ever since the Duvalier family's "accession to the throne"—broke out last January, the military tried chiefly to prevent fires and wholesale slaughter and to keep back the hungry crowds who took foodstores by storm. Like his daddy before him, Baby Doc didn't have much trust in the military and kept the bulk of the armed forces' ammunition in the basements of the presidential palace. It is small wonder, therefore, that "Long Live the Army" was among the slogans of anti-dictatorial manifestations.

Though Duvalier has been ousted, poverty is still rife.

Reproduced from Der Spiegel (F.R.G.)

Washington knew all along—since as early as five to six years back—that it would have to part with Duvalier sooner or later, and started courting the Haitian military in good time. They were offered instruction in the School of the Americas in the Panama Canal zone. In 1980 the U.S. started sending in subsidies for the training of the Haitian army personnel.

And now let me explain why the Stars and Stripes could be seen next to the national flag during demonstrations.

The U.S. was extremely mindful of its reputation. On the one hand, it took the credit for having "delivered" the Haitians from the tyranny. On the other hand, it did not give its interference too much publicity. After all, it had clung to Duvalier to the last and tolerated him until he finally became a political zombie. Even then, the U.S. did not dispose of him on its own but used a cat's-paw—a Jamaican minister told the dictator that his time was up and that the best thing he could do was board a plane kindly provided by the Pentagon. The White House knew better than offering the ex-dictator its hospitality and sent him out to Europe instead.

And what about its having connived at ruthless terrorism? As the dictatorship exterminated the best sons of the Haitian people, Washington looked on with a decorous frown of disapproval and even at times suspended arms supplies to Haiti in order to save face—while carrying on economic aid "for humanitarian reasons." But later it turned out that the wiping out of the most radical opponents of the dictatorial regime had come only too handy to the Americans in carrying through the plan in question.

It was mostly in retrospect that Washington dissociated itself from the brutalities committed under the tyranny by approving the death sentence passed on Luc Desir, the former secret police chief who used to torment prisoners in person every Sunday before going to morning Mass, by sanctioning the institution of legal proceedings against some of Duvalier's closest accomplices, and welcoming the junta's attempts to sue Baby Doc for at least a part of what he had stolen.

Give the Beggar a Shirt

And what about the Yankee plunder? This story is not simple enough to be put in a nutshell. The system of economic fettering is a cunning thing. Where exactly is the pump the U.S. monopolies use to draw profits out of Haiti? You just cannot put your finger on it. As for American aid, it is very much in evidence—and beautifully packaged to boot. There will be more of it now: apart from the 52-million-dollar loan planned for the current year, Washington promised Haiti 20 million more as a gift. The interim regime needs material support. France, Haiti's parent state until as late as the last century, is going to double its aid to Haiti, bringing it up to 300 million francs. Seeing what a desperate state the Haitian people are in, certain Latin American governments have also launched fund-raising campaigns for their benefit.

According to the New York Times, the White House is encouraging American businesses and multilateral lending institutions to invest in Haiti. Indeed, why should the West keep Haiti poor? Who would buy American and other goods there if it does? If a man is to be stripped of his shirt, he ought to be given a chance to earn enough money to buy it first.

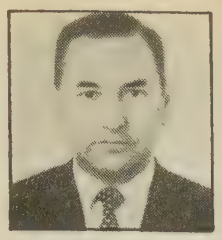
On October 19, the parliamentary machine was given its first test in Haiti. But you must spoil before you spin. The democratic forces boycotted the elections. Besides, the rules of propriety were not always observed. At a polling station some officials, still infected by Papa Doc's aversion to pluralism, publicly tore up the ballots cast for the candidates of the opposition.

Who will be entrusted with governing the "democratic" Haiti after General Namphy fulfils his "transitional" mission? Marc Bazin, the former Vice-President of the World Bank, who has already proved his aptness at politicking American style by handing out ten-dollar bills to all those wishing to join his party? Or Colonel William Regalat, the present Minister of State for the Interior, who swears that Haiti will never become "a second Nicaragua"?

According to the French paper Le Figaro, the U.S. President has announced himself to be "a guarantor of stability" in Haiti. This means that his emissaries will do their utmost lest the ballot-box fuss should come to nothing.

V. CHIRKOV

APPOINTMENTS



Alexander Sergeyevich DZASOKHOV

Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to Syria

Alexander Dzasokhov, an Ossetian, was born in Ordzhonikidze, the North Ossetian A.S.S.R., on April 3, 1934. In 1957 he graduated from the North Caucasian Institute of Ore Mining and Metallurgy. A Candidate of Science (Hist.), he is a member of the CPSU since 1957.

In 1957-65, Alexander Dzasokhov held a succession of posts in the Young Communist League. In 1965-67 he was Executive Secretary and First Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Youth Organizations of the U.S.S.R. In 1967-77 he was appointed Executive Secretary and then deputy chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. In 1977-86 Alexander Dzasokhov was first deputy chairman of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

Alexander Dzasokhov has been awarded the orders of the October Revolution, the Red Banner of Labour, the Friendship of the Peoples, and medals.

Stanislav Nikolayevich SEMENENKO

Ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to Uganda

Stanislav Semenenko, a Russian, was born in Moscow on October 1, 1927. In 1958 he graduated from the Moscow Institute of International Relations under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. A member of the CPSU since 1956.

After graduation, Stanislav Semenenko was assigned to work at the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain. In 1962-64 he was an attaché and third secretary of the Second European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. In 1964-67 he was second secretary of the U.S.S.R. Mission in New Zealand. In 1967-69 Stanislav Semenenko was second secretary of the Second European Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. In 1969-71 he held, in succession, the posts of second and first secretary of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in Great Britain. In 1971-75 he was appointed first secretary and then counsellor of the Secretariat of First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. In 1975-79 Stanislav Semenenko was counsellor of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. in Singapore, whereupon he got a transfer back to the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. In 1979-86 he was assistant and then senior assistant to first deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

Stanislav Semenenko has been awarded government decorations.

Israel has indeed got hold of nuclear weapons, an eyewitness with a ten-year record of work in the Machon-2 top-secret bunker, testifies

The Negev Desert Mystery Unravelled

EVGENY KORSHUNOV

"This is the end of Israel!" Coming as it did from Defence Minister Moshe Dayan, all his life known for his cool and daring, this panic-stricken declaration came like a bolt out of the blue for Prime Minister Golda Meir, and was delivered by an excited Dayan over the telephone on the night of October 8, 1973. Fierce battles were raging on the Sinai peninsula; the Egyptian army was advancing pushing the Israeli troops towards their borders and inflicting heavy losses.

It is hard to recreate the worried conversation between Dayan and Meir that night, but its result is well known. The Prime Minister ordered the "doomsday weapon" to be put on the alert and gave Dayan clearance to use it. The weapon was the atom bomb.

Somewhere in an underground tunnel (the location could then only be guessed at) 13 atomic bombs had been assembled within 78 hours and delivered to planes that were standing by. A few more hours and a nuclear holocaust would have become inevitable. The whole Middle East would have been reduced to a death zone. But the situation at the front stabilized and the "doomsday weapon" was sent back to its hiding place in the Negev Desert.

It was Time magazine that informed the world of this story. It is recalled every time the question of the Zionist state's possession of nuclear weapons is raised. The question keeps cropping up again and again. And there are always some who suggest that perhaps Israel is just bluffing to scare its Arab neighbours, that maybe it is just another example of misinformation launched by Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service.

The last time the question of whether Israel possesses nuclear weapons or not arose was in October, following the printing of a sensational story in the British Sunday Times by Mordechai Vanunu, 31, an Israeli citizen who had worked for almost ten years as a technician in Dimona, Israel's nuclear research centre. The Moroccan-born Vanunu had been sacked in November of last year, suspected by agents of the Israeli internal security service Shin Beth of pro-Arab sympathies, who then established that he had contacts with Palestinian students. But before he was dismissed, Vanunu had managed to smuggle a camera into the top secret Machon-2 bunker and take 60 snapshots.

The Mordechai Vanunu Affair

Realizing that Shin Beth agents would not leave him alone even after being sacked from Dimona, Vanunu went to faraway Australia. It is still unclear how he contacted the Sunday Times. The French Le Matin claims that newsmen sought him out in Australia and persuaded him to write a book about what he had seen during his ten years in Dimona. Whether this book has been written or not is not known. But it is clear that the materials for this book were made available by Vanunu to the Sunday Times editors, who enlisted some eminent scientists to authenticate their accurateness and value as proof that Israel has and continues to produce nuclear weapons. Among the experts confirming this were Theodore Taylor, the "father of the neutron bomb," and Dr Frank Barnaby, the recently retired director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Even so, Sunday Times journalists spent four weeks checking out the authenticity of their information, bringing in some top British nuclear physicists. As a result of thorough and painstaking research, the Sunday Times confidently declared that Israel was now the sixth member of the "nuclear club." At the French-equipped plant in Dimona, carefully hidden from international inspection, nuclear weapons have been manufactured for over 20 years. As much as 40 kilogrammes of plutonium is manufactured every year—enough to make ten bombs. All in all experts estimate that Israel has "at least 100 bombs, and as many as 200 nuclear weapons of varying destructive power have been assembled—ten times the previously estimated strength of Israel's nuclear arsenal." According to Mordechai Vanunu, the latest nuclear weapons programme known to him was code-named Hump.

Israel, which stubbornly refuses to accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, has hastened to refute Mordechai Vanunu's data and the conclusions drawn by the Sunday Times and world-renowned scientists. There were also reports in the press that the Shin Beth service may be in deep trouble over the affair. After

being dismissed under the pretext of payroll cuts, Vanunu reportedly was open about his pro-Palestinian views and his intention to leave Israel. Meanwhile Shin Beth had done nothing. There was talk of another inquiry into the activity of the Zionist secret police, the second in 1986. The first took place in the summer and was caused by the murder of two Palestinian youths by Shin Beth agents in April 1984 and an attempted cover-up. The head of Shin Beth was forced to resign, but the affair did not end at that. One can imagine the glee with which Mossad must have watched its rival agency again end up with egg all over its face, having botched a business which Mossad had so successfully taken care of since the very birth of Israel.

After the Sunday Times publication, however, according to Le Matin, Mordechai Vanunu mysteriously disappeared. Kidnapped in London by Israeli secret agents, he was brought to Israel where he faced a 15-year prison sentence. It is hard to say whether this is the work of Shin Beth agents trying to restore their tarnished reputation in the eyes of Israel's leaders, or of the Mossad men who are old hands at staging criminal acts in NATO countries. What I am sure of though is that we have not heard the last of the Mordechai Vanunu affair.

To Kill One, to Kill Thousands

In the mid-June of 1980 a murdered man was found in the Hotel Méridien in Paris. His body bore traces of mutilation, and death had been caused by a blow that fractured his skull. It looked as if the man had been tortured to extract some information.

The newspapers reported that the victim was Yahia el-Meshad, 48, an Egyptian nuclear scientist on the staff of the Iraqi atomic commission. He was in Paris on a business trip conducting research in the labs of the French Atomic Energy Commissariat. French police did not bother to make public its ideas on the murderers' identities and motives. A year later, after the piratic Israeli air raid destroyed a peaceful Iraqi nuclear research centre being built in Tamuz, the Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali publicly accused the Israeli special services (obviously referring to Mossad) of killing the Egyptian scientist.

According to the minister, Yahia el-Meshad was an outstanding Egyptian scientist who had worked in nuclear physics in Egypt for many years. He later cooperated with French firms helping Iraq to build its national centre for peaceful nuclear research.

Judging by all, Mossad agents tortured the Egyptian scientist (on French territory!) into disclosing information on the progress of construction work, whereupon they killed him. This information completed the picture pieced together from what Mossad had previously collected and what had been obtained from the Americans (as reported by the Israeli newspaper Maariv). A few months later, in October 1980, the Israeli cabinet of Menachem Begin approved "in principle" the plan of the air strike at the Iraqi nuclear centre in Tamuz.

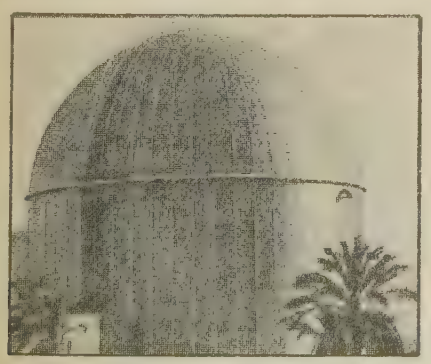
Carried out on June 7, 1981, the raid involved American-made F-15 and F-16 planes, and succeeded in destroying the Osirak nuclear reactor. Some of the centre's builders and staff were killed or wounded, including Damien Chaussepied, a French expert. News of the attack on the peaceful nuclear centre aroused world outrage. Israel had not only flouted international law, but made the first air raid on a nuclear centre in history, destroying its reactor. The catastrophic consequences that could have occurred need no explanation.

In an attempt to justify his actions, Begin claimed that Iraq was preparing to manufacture nuclear weapons, and that the attack on Tamuz was an act of self-defence. However, IAEA inspectors who had visited Tamuz shortly before the raid attested that Iraq was engaged in civilian research. The Tamuz air raid was condemned by the United Nations. But as if to challenge international public opinion, the Israeli Defence Minister awarded a distinguished service medal to the officer who commanded the Tamuz air raid. The award ceremony took place at an air base in the presence of the Israeli cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Begin. As is the rule among Israel's air pirates, the "hero's" name was kept secret. Suppose they are shot down in another piratic raid and taken prisoner? Such things have happened before.

As reported by the newspaper Maariv, Israel refused to allow inspectors at its nuclear centre at Dimona, including some American experts, at the time of the Tamuz air raid. While in the 1960s Americans inspecting Dimona were, according to the Sunday Times, able to be fooled, the production of plutonium has now assumed such a large scale that it is impossible to conceal.

The murder of the Egyptian scientist in Paris and the Tamuz air raid are just episodes in the secret war waged by Israel's rulers through Mossad to ensure their nuclear supremacy in the Middle East.

A clipping from the Beirut newspaper Ike of April 8, 1979, quoting an Associated Press dispatch from France, reads: "Police investigators said on Saturday they had no firm lead in their search for the skilled saboteurs who blew up two nuclear reactors ready for delivery to Iraq." The article also reported that a previously unknown Group of French Ecologists had claimed responsibility. It was clear, however, that the "saboteurs" had detailed information on the nuclear equipment that was blown up, and had been acting with certainty.



The above-surface section of the plutonium reactor.

The subsurface "nerve centre" of the nuclear weapons plant.

No one any longer doubts that the anonymous "saboteurs" were the agents of Mossad, who, back in 1967-68, had set up a special group for operation in NATO countries.

Israel's rulers began their quest to possess nuclear weapons back in 1952, when Israel's Atomic Energy Commission was set up. It enlisted the services of top scientists in the U.S., Britain, France, the F.R.G. and other Western countries, some of whom had been working to build an atomic bomb for Hitler. With Western help, ground was broken for nuclear centres in the Negev Desert, such as Dimona and Yavna. A similar centre appeared in Nahal-Sorek somewhat later. The Dimona centre was built by France between 1957 and 1964 under an arrangement made by none other than Shimon Peres back in 1956. The future Prime Minister was general director of the Israeli Defence Ministry at the time. In late September 1986, when the story of the Mordechai Vanunu revelations broke, he, as Prime Minister, told the editors of Israeli newspapers during a secret briefing not to "blow up" the information of the goings-on in Dimona. Simultaneously, Communications Minister Ammon Rubinstein wrote in the British press denying Vanunu's revelations and claiming that Vanunu was just a disgruntled worker who had been sacked. One wonders what Rubinstein would reply if he were reminded that back in 1970 Moshe Dayan, the then Defence Minister, declared in Paris that "Israel possesses the technology to manufacture the atomic bomb."

After the scandal caused by the Mordechai Vanunu's revelations, which naturally raised the question of who had helped such an aggressive state as Israel to become a nuclear power, 85-year-old Francis Perrin, former supreme commissioner of France for atomic energy, admitted that in the 1950s France had secretly passed on the technology for the manufacture of the atomic bomb to Israel.

"We felt that we could give Israel the secrets [of nuclear weapons manufacture—**E.K.**] on condition that it would keep them to istelf," the superannuated ex-commissioner explained with childish naiveté.

Tel Aviv probably had promised to keep the French secret to itself. Let it be added that in the 1950s Israel and South Africa signed a secret cooperation agreement under which Pretoria was to provide Tel Aviv with uranium ore in exchange for nuclear technology. The deal was so attractive for the partners in the "unholy alliance," as the Pretoria-Tel Aviv axis is sometimes described in the African press, that it was followed up by a new agreement to develop and expand nuclear research cooperation, which was signed in the spring of 1976.

But France and South Africa are not the only countries that helped Israel to get the nuclear weapon. It transpired at the 36th session of the U.N. General Assembly that the list of these countries was headed by the United States; massive evidence was furnished to the effect that the U.S. and other NATO countries were not only cooperating with Israeli nuclear experts, but also supplying fissionable materials and appropriate equipment to Israel. It will be recalled that the 33rd session of the U.N. General Assembly had passed a special resolution banning the sale of nuclear technology, fissionable materials and nuclear equipment to Israel—a decision with which the Western powers failed to comply.

With a Dream of the "Doomsday Weapon"

The story of how Israel got hold of nuclear materials is a veritable suspense thriller. I have mentioned the special group Mossad set up to operate "against" Western nuclear installations (**Western,** mark you!). The group operated with straightforward crudity and although its connection with Mossad was an open secret, Tel Aviv dissociated itself from it for the sake of decorum.

On one occasion it seized a truck carrying uranium for the French government by drugging the driver and replacing him with one of its own. A similar episode later occurred in Britain. In both cases the cargo ended up in Dimona. It is curious that Tel Aviv chose to behave in a "gentlemanly" fashion by paying damages to the countries involved and presenting data on its secret research in uranium enrichment. Not that the "victims" had been particularly sorry over the loss of the uranium.

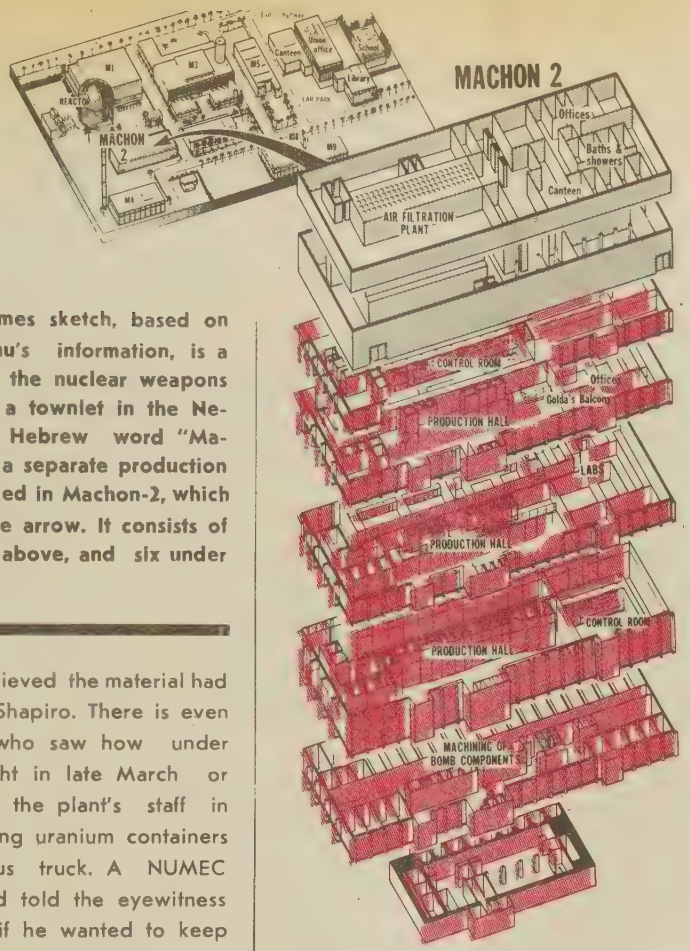
The hijacking of 200 tons of unenriched uranium from the F.R.G. followed a more intricate scenario. Although Israel had bought the uranium in a quiet official deal, it was decided to "hijack" it along with the Scheersberg ship. The crew was replaced by an Israeli one and the vessel was registered with a Liberian company. The vessel left Antwerp. Its log book said it was carrying a cargo to Genoa. In the open sea the uranium was taken on board by an Israeli ship and delivered to the Israeli port of Haifa, and from there it went to Dimona. The operation was carried out by a special Mossad group. The purpose of the exercise was to clear the F.R.G. authorities of any charges of complicity with Israel.

But the biggest stir was made by the story of the loss of a large amount of enriched uranium from the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation (NUMEC) in the U.S.A. The corporation was set up in 1957 by Zalman Shapiro, who was previously involved in the Manhattan Project (which developed the atomic bomb in the U.S.) and was known for his Zionist views. The corporation's plant in Apollo manufactured enriched uranium for the reactors used by the U.S. armed forces and for private corporations. Customers (some of them foreign) supplied their own uranium to Apollo. It was the private firms that raised the alarm over the loss of part of the precious uranium. When an inquiry was attempted it turned out that some documents had been "inadvertently destroyed" during a "general house cleaning" in 1962, while other documents were in such a state that neither head nor tail could be made of them.

It also transpired that the plant was frequently visited by Israeli diplomats and nuclear energy experts, and that among the staff at Apollo was a "metallurgist" by the name of Baruch Cinai. Three times the FBI instituted proceedings over the loss of the uranium in Apollo, but each time they had to be dropped "in the absence of incriminating evidence." When the question was first raised in 1966 the inquiry established that 93 kilogrammes of "special nuclear materials" had disappeared from Apollo without a trace. It has now become known, thanks to recently declassified U.S. government documents, that over the past 20 years of the Apollo plant's work 342 kilogrammes of highly enriched uranium were signed off as lost. That is enough to manufacture 38 atomic bombs of the kind dropped on Hiroshima. In the years when Zalman Shapiro was the head of NUMEC 267 kilogrammes left the plant unaccounted for. Shapiro, incidentally, also owned the Israeli company Isorad specializing in the manufacture of nuclear equipment.

An official U.S. spokesman expressed a widespread opinion when he said

The lithium-6 production control panel. All these photographs, a total of 60, were taken clandestinely by Mordechai Vanunu, and published in the London Sunday Times.



This Sunday Times sketch, based on Mordechai Vanunu's information, is a block diagram of the nuclear weapons plant in Dimona, a townlet in the Negev Desert. The Hebrew word "Machon" designates a separate production unit. Vanunu worked in Machon-2, which is indicated by the arrow. It consists of eight floors—two above, and six under ground.

that everyone believed the material had been stolen by Shapiro. There is even one eyewitness who saw how under the cover of night in late March or early April 1965 the plant's staff in Apollo was loading uranium containers onto a mysterious truck. A NUMEC representative had told the eyewitness "to keep quiet" if he wanted to keep his job. This happened in 1965, and in 1969 the CIA established that Israel had received a batch of enriched uranium.

The investigation found that Zalman Shapiro maintained close ties with the Israeli embassy, and was communicating with it with the use of a special "untappable" telephone and a code that the FBI have failed to crack. Richard Helms, the then CIA chief, declared after a visit to the White House that President Johnson wanted the affair to be hushed up. Carl Duckett, former CIA's deputy director for Science and Technology, maintained that Richard Helms had banned the publication of a 1969 report raising the question of Israel's nuclear armament.

According to Washington Post, Duckett quoted President Johnson as telling Helms: "Don't tell anyone, not even Dean Rusk and Robert McNamara," then Secretary of State and Defence Secretary, respectively.

The case was closed, but evidence exists that a 1974 CIA report said: "We believe Israel already has produced nuclear weapons. Our judgement is based on Israeli acquisition of large quantities of uranium, partly by clandestine means."

Most recently, another American-Israeli "nuclear" row broke out when Richard Smith, a Californian businessman, illegally shipped 810 krytrons (electronic devices that can be used in the manufacture of nuclear bombs) from the U.S.A. to Israel. Smith escaped from the U.S.A. after being indicted. He may have been given cover by his Israeli employers. The American press brought up the loss of uranium from the Apollo plant and the krytron affair in November 1985, when Jonathan Pollard, a member of the U.S. Navy's counterintelligence, was arrested in the U.S.A. accused of working for Israeli intelligence. By the time of his arrest he had managed to provide the Israelis with secret documents, some of which had to do with the military industry.

Pollard worked under the guidance of Raphael Eitan, a major Mossad figure, onetime adviser to Menachem Begin "on terrorism" and until recently the head of the so-called Bureau of Scientific Affairs, a specialized intelligence organization. FBI documents dealing with the inquiry into the loss of uranium in Apollo point out that Raphael Eitan, trained as a chemist, was among the four Israeli citizens who had applied for permission to visit the Apollo plant. At that time he was listed as a member of the Israeli Defence Ministry staff.

Leafing through the files tracing the path covered by the Zionist state in pursuit of the "doomsday weapon," studying the documents and newspaper clippings, comparing them and adding it all up, one cannot help being amazed at the open and cynical way in which a succession of Israel's rulers have acted to make their country a member of the "nuclear club," passing the relay to each other. One party bloc replaced another, Prime Ministers succeeded each other, staff members of Mossad and other special services assumed ministerial posts or donned diplomatic garb, but it was all the same people, the same names.

Mordechai Vanunu has proved that Israel has been manufacturing nuclear weapons. But this is no news. It has been assumed for at least ten years. Mordechai Vanunu, by providing concrete technical data and 60 photographs, merely confirmed what everybody already knew. The question now is of the responsibility before the whole of mankind that should be laid at the door of those who have put the nuclear weapon into the hands of Israel's rulers known for their commitment to terrorism.

Now that people of good will, who cherish life on the planet Earth and demand the elimination of nuclear death for all time, are closing their ranks in the struggle for the future of humanity, the nuclear threat emanating from Israel must also be taken into account. The struggle against the top-secret underground arsenals in the Negev Desert should be part of the struggle against nuclear death.

I hear that the U.S. has a national health service. Would this mean the Administration takes care of the working people's health?

N. FILIPOV
Kemerovo, U.S.S.R.

HEALTH CARE AMERICAN STYLE

The U.S. indeed subsidizes part of social costs. But only partly, note. Which also applies to the health services. How is this done?

The Reagan Administration has based its economic policies on the resurgence of free enterprise. Privatization has thus served to reduce federal spending.

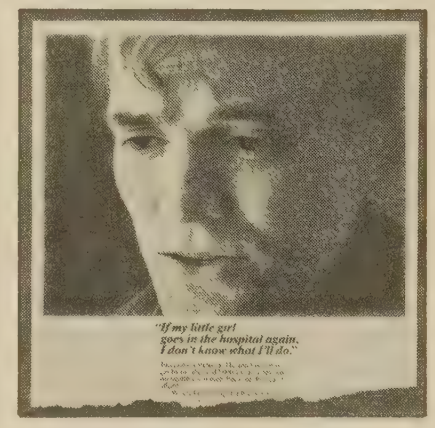
The results of Reaganomics are most distinct in the social sphere—due to the direct link that exists between federal social programmes and the human being's standing under capitalism. As you may remember, the present Administration ushered itself in by slashing social spending by $20 billion.

As regards the health services two objectives were set, the first to reduce the related federal outlay, the second, to have the private resources more effectively employed, as this sector accounts for two thirds of the cost of medical care. That was to be achieved by stimulating competition between medical establishments so as to halt the runaway rise in health bills.

Federal health spending has been steadily mounting since 1965. However, under the current Administration the rates of increase have essentially slackened with health outlays rising from $27 billion in 1981 to $36 billion in 1986. Yet, since inflation has virtually offset the increase, per capita spending has actually fallen. In the 1987 fiscal year, which started on October 1, the related outlays have been slashed by another $1 billion.

There are two basic federal health programmes, Medicare and Medicaid, which in the early half of the 1980s accounted for around 90 per cent of total federal outlays.

Medicare is a programme of federal health insurance for persons of 65 and more, the disabled, and also patients of any age in the final stage of kidney diseases. It is financed through wage and salary deductions plus deductions



The photograph depicts a farmer by the name of Jim, whose earnings are inadequate to foot medical insurance contributions. When his little girl had a heart operation, the bill amounted to more than Jim earns in the space of a year. He has been ruined.

Nearly 33 million Americans are unable to pay medical insurance contributions. What are they to do if a doctor is needed?

from employer incomes. In 1984 total deduction comprised 2.7 per cent of wages and salaries. The Medicare tax is part of the social insurance tax.

Medicare is wholly controlled by the federal Administration. Related outlays have swiftly increased, rising from $7 billion in 1970 to $35 billion in 1980, to $60 billion in 1984 and to around $70 billion in 1986. Originally this was due to the lack of medical aid for the elderly, a problem that has beset the U.S. virtually throughout its entire history. But now the rising costs derive from the jacked-up bills for private services.

Medicare as such incorporates two—basic and supplementary—types of medical insurance. Dues for the first are automatically deducted from wages and salaries. Although supplementary insurance is not obligatory, nine of every ten entitled to Medicare are thus insured. This is because the basic insurance provides for hospital bills, while supplementary insurance takes care of doctors' bills and outpatient treatment, including physiotherapy and prosthetic appliances. For this supplementary aspect monthly dues are expected, but, since they do not meet the full cost, the federal budget partly subsidizes it. As for the basic aspect, hospital bills are met out of a special hospital fund, incorporated within the federal budget and derived from that part of the social insurance tax which goes to Medicare.

Despite the introduction of federal health programmes from the second half of the 1960s, the proportion in family incomes of health spending by the elderly remained at roughly the same level of 13 per cent in 1965 and 12 per cent in the early 1980s. Medicare's basic and supplementary insurance meets only some 40 per cent of doctors' bills for the elderly.

Medicaid, which is for the needy, does not envisage any special taxes. Legislatively, it is controlled by the state governments who define which categories are entitled to such aid and on what terms. Hence the specific entitlement qualifications differ from state to state. Federal subsidies to Medicaid average 60 per cent, ranging from 50 per cent in New York State to 78 per cent in Mississippi State.

Federal spending on Medicaid has been rising at a much slower rate than on Medicare, increasing from $18 billion in 1984 to about $23 billion in 1985 and to about $25 billion in 1986. The Administration decided for the first time to cut such outlays in 1987.

Various estimates put from a third to a half of the U.S.A.'s poorest population outside of this programme. These people have virtually no access whatever to medical services. Under the current Administration it is far harder to meet the terms under which one is entitled to Medicare and Medicaid.

Inasmuch as for political reasons it is impossible to abolish Medicare or openly cut back on its services, as this would have immediately provoked popular disgruntlement, the Administration has sought to achieve the same ends indirectly. As a result, patients are themselves forced to shoulder an ever

increasing share of the cost. Thus, under a bill passed by Congress in 1983 all the hospitalized are broken down into 467 so-called "diagnostic related groups," based on the different scale of treatment costs. For every patient in each of these groups the federal budget assigns the relevant Medicare sum. However, should hospital bills be less, the hospital in question pockets the difference. To "economize," hospitals may refuse to take patients with "unprofitable" diseases.

Under an earlier 1981 law reducing federal subsidies for Medicaid, the states were granted much leeway in the matter of restricting entitlement.

As the result of Reagan's health policies, the scale of relatively inexpensive federally-subsidized services has been reduced, which has spurred a runaway rise in billing by the private sector. Hence the Administration's second objective of having available resources more effectively applied by stimulating competition between medical establishments has not been attained.

The state of affairs in the area of the health services shows that all the Administration's actions have spelled an offensive against the ordinary American's rights.

T. PASTUKHOVA

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, MAN

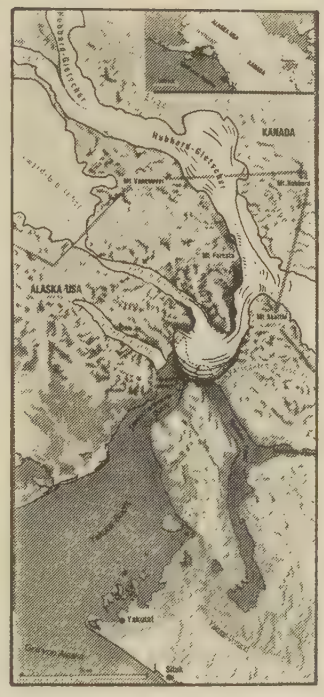
● NATURE

THE "GALLOPING" GLACIER

First to feel worried that March morning was a local fisherman. It seemed as if a storm was nigh from the sea. The peals of thunder bounced back off the cliffs to reverberate across the sea. However, skies over Alaska's shores were untroubled.

The thunder came from the Hubbard Glacier. Enormous chunks of ice hurtled down into the sea from some 90 metres up. With every day the glacier picked up speed to intrude within a month's time some 300 metres deep into the sea. By the close of July Fjord Russel and its arm Fjord Nunatak were cut off. However, the glacier continued to advance, and by now covers some 15 metres daily.

The residents of the local towns of Yakutat and Situk demanded immediate action from the U.S. Administration. Although scientists believe there is no ground for apprehension, it is quite likely that with the passage of time the glacier will oust the inhabitants. At any rate, American geologists believe the Hubbard Glacier's advance will largely modify North American scenery and climate. On the move are 20 glaciers in the Gulf of Alaska.



The Hubbard Glacier blocked two fjords, transforming them into an "inland sea."

Reproduced from Stern (F.R.G.)

Scientists found what is really responsible for the "galloping" glacier only several years ago. Between 1978 and 1983 Münster University physicist Hermann Engelhardt experimented with the Variegated Glacier, which is a neighbour of the Hubbard Glacier. For the first time in world practice he drilled through a glacier by means of a 100-atmosphere jet of boiling water. After six hours had gone by he reached rock 450 metres down. He bore 64 such holes and through further research unravelled the nature of ice movement.

It appears that underneath the glacier it has chutes whereby to run off the melting water. However, under the colossal weight these chutes often collapse, in which case the melting water accumulates, as it has nowhere to go. There comes a critical moment when the pressure this water exerts is so great that it can push the glacier up. Cushioned by this mass of water, the glacier begins to move sliding down as if on a slippery runway and comes to a halt only after the water has filtered out. Hence, in several weeks' time the currently "galloping" Hubbard Glacier will stop.

● PLANT LIFE

KAUNAS WIZARDS AND THE BEANSTALK

Can one grow a whole tree from just one bean? The fairy-tale Jack managed to do so and climb his beanstalk up to the very clouds. In real life Kaunas Polytechnical Institute scientists thought to do the same by means of a newly invented growth stimulant. Preplanting treatment adds 6 per cent to the weight of each bean, increases the number of pods by more than 70 per cent, and doubles the crop yield. True, the beanstalk thus grown does not reach up to the sky as Jack's did.

● BEVERAGES

SEA-WATER TONIC

The creator in Northern France of a new tonic, comprised of 10 per cent of sea water and 5 per cent of algae, claims that besides being full of vitamins and other beneficial substances, it quickly recoups liquid and mineral salts losses in the human organism.

● EXPERIMENT

LUNAR CONCRETE IS STRONGER

After studying Moon rock, U.S. scientists have found Moon concrete to be more durable than that made down on earth, as it has no organic substances. They have confirmed this by means of a trial mix.

■

In Words and Deeds

Educating people in the spirit of peace and understanding

MIKHAIL KAPITSA
Chairman of the Commission of the U.S.S.R. for UNESCO,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R.

The bitter experience of the most inhuman war in history prompted the international community to look for ways of preventing war from ever flaring up again. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), formed on November 4, 1946, was entrusted with the lofty mission of promoting the moulding of human consciousness in the spirit of strengthening peace and international understanding.

The organization is marking its 40th anniversary in complex conditions. The arms race, fraught with serious consequences and diverting tremendous material resources from the solution of mankind's pressing problems, continues.

Nor is the situation within UNESCO simple. The pressure put on it by the West, especially the United States, accounts for this (the United States withdrew from UNESCO two years ago followed by Britain one year later). Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze noted in his speech at the 41st session of the U.N. General Assembly that "the country which once provided the seat for the United Nations headquarters now all too often shows sharp hostility for this organization ... slams the door and refuses to fulfil its obligations, as was the case with UNESCO."

Against the Militarization of Mentality

There is reason to believe, however, that with the aid of its friends, and the Soviet Union can be definitely counted as one of them, UNESCO will manage to find workable solutions to the problems confronting it. This will make it possible to concentrate attention on main directions, preserving its identity and reputation as the world community's "laboratory of ideas."

The Soviet Union has always supported UNESCO's activities since it joined it in 1954. By no means limited to merely making statements about adherence to the organization's ideals and aims, this support also manifests itself in concrete actions and assistance to UNESCO, which has now come upon hard times.

The Soviet scientific and cultural community and the Soviet mass media show a keen interest in UNESCO's activities. In fact, many leading scientists and cultural figures of our country participate in the organization's activities.

UNESCO is capable of being a major positive factor in the present system of international relations by consolidating the new philosophy of peace in the minds of people—in each country with due account for historical traditions and national specificities. After all, according to its Constitution, this is precisely UNESCO's principal aim, i.e., to introduce into man's daily life and into his world outlook the philosophy of peace and international understanding.

It is significant that the 40th anniversary of UNESCO coincides with the International Year of Peace. In keeping with its Constitution, UNESCO makes a considerable contribution to eliminating the danger of war. The Soviet Union believes that the organization should work against the militarization of people's thinking, and educate the world public in the spirit of peace, bringing it home to everyone that a nuclear war means the death of our civilization.

Mankind's intellectual potential, provided it is directed at overcoming hunger, economic backwardness, diseases and the other global problems of our time, will become a tremendous material force capable of transforming our world.

Nowadays, cooperation of states in the field of education, science, culture and mass information (communication) is gaining in importance.

The universal spread of literacy and the power of scientific cognition are the main factors determining UNESCO's place and role in the present-day world. The role of the spoken and, even more so, the printed word, has never been as great as it is now. When coming from a school or university teacher it has a formative influence on young people. An outstanding work of literature builds the world outlook of many generations. But education and art can serve both the strengthening of understanding, peace and friendship among nations and the fanning of violence and national discord. UNESCO should be instrumental in spreading the ideas of peace and international friendship. By means of art and science—the word, the rhyme, the colour scheme, by means of precise, scientifically-established facts—it should help ensure that education unites and not separates people so that finally the idea of war as a possible way of conducting international affairs is regarded as preposterous.

The problem of stamping out illiteracy remains one of the main directions of UNESCO's activities. But this problem has yet to be solved. The percentage of illiterates is declining in relation to the world's rapidly growing population but in absolute figures the number grows. If this tendency persists, by the year 2000 the number of people unable to read and write will have reached one billion.

The Soviet Union solved this problem within its borders long ago and is sharing its experience on the international level. The UNESCO Nadezhda Krupskaya Prize, awarded for accomplishments in eradicating illiteracy and spreading literacy, was instituted and is financed by the U.S.S.R. On the initiative and with the support of the U.S.S.R. and other countries of the socialist community, the 23rd UNESCO General Conference (Sofia, 1985) adopted a number of important resolutions to step up efforts in this field.

In turn, as the Soviet Union has launched secondary and vocational education reforms and is beginning to reorganize its higher education, this country is studying the international experience of using modern teaching aids, in particular the use of documentation science in education.

Extensive international cooperation in the field of natural sciences is one of the main fields of the organization's activity. UNESCO accumulates the knowledge of specialists from different countries and the latest achievements of science and technology, and applies

them to the study of pressing and long-term problems whose solution is beyond the possibilities of individual countries. Soviet research institutes take an active part in the fulfilment of many key scientific programmes. For example, there is a Soviet committee working in line with the UNESCO programme "Man and the Biosphere."

It is very important that UNESCO should devote proper attention to analyzing mankind's practical experience in solving social, ethical and ecological problems generated by scientific and technological progress.

Future Plans

I would like to make special mention of UNESCO's activities in the important sphere of international cultural cooperation, which helps to promote world understanding, the progress of nations and universal peace. What I mean is not only assistance to the development of national cultures and extensive international cultural exchanges. Ignorance of another country's culture and the prejudices arising from that impede mutual understanding and sometimes become a source of mistrust.

The Soviet Union supports the World Decade of Development of Culture to be proclaimed at the current 41st session of the U.N. General Assembly and begin in 1988.

This important anniversary in the history of UNESCO naturally makes one wonder about its prospects. Furthermore, work is now beginning on drafting UNESCO's strategy for the 1990s and the more distant future.

The organization's activities should be a reasonable blend of the intellectual and analytical, and extensive practical work to carry out concrete projects in all spheres of its competence. Its intellectual, material and financial possibilities should be used with maximum effect and economy, and efforts should be concentrated on key issues.

The major initiatives of recent times —the ten-year Education for Peace plan, the working out of sweeping measures to stamp out illiteracy by the year 2000, the proclamation of the World Decade of Development of Culture and the initiation of new major intergovernmental programmes in promising fields of science—have created a solid groundwork. But life does not stand still and UNESCO must keep up with it. Only then will it be able to fulfil its mission, that of being an effective instrument of international understanding and cooperation. ■

Albania Today

FERENC VARNAI

So far, it is mostly officials—diplomats, Foreign Trade Ministry representatives and experts—who are arriving in Albania from Hungary. Every year their number grows. One can also get to Tirana Airport—as I did—by being invited by one of the very few Hungarians living in Albania.

As a rule, only one plane a day lands at Tirana Airport. Aside from the Hungarian Airlines jet, planes from Yugoslavia, Romania, Greece and Switzerland—each once a week—land there. Planes from the G.D.R. fly in bi-weekly.

A newcomer to Albania is pleasantly impressed by thoroughly cultivated lands. Most of those working in the fields are women. The houses and villages scattered all over moutain slopes are wired for electricity, and most of the urban-type two-storey apartment blocks are bristling with TV aerials. In the evening, the People's Heroes Boulevard, the main street of Tirana, is crowded with strollers, men mostly, dressed in a variety of styles. The Boulevard runs as far as Skanderbeg Square, which is now being rebuilt. A monument to Enver Hoxha, who passed away last year, and a fountain are to be erected there. The square is enclosed by a Palace of Culture, the History Museum, a 15-storey hotel and a mosque. The latter is closed for want of an exhibition. Other places of worship have been converted into museums.

The boulevard, flanked with monuments to Lenin and Stalin, is lined with government buildings: the Party Central Committee, the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of National Defence. At the other end of the boulevard, next to the University, a Palace of Congresses is nearing completion. A building of modern design, it will seat 2,200.

In Berat, southern Albania, every effort is made to preserve monuments of architecture—and old national culture in general. A 16th-century Greek Orthodox church has been excellently restored there.

In shops, people habitually form two queues—one of men, and the other of women, with sales clerks alternating between them. At the covered market you can get tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, apricots, eggs at state-fixed prices. Milk is still in short supply but the situation is improving. At the city exhibition Albania Today I was

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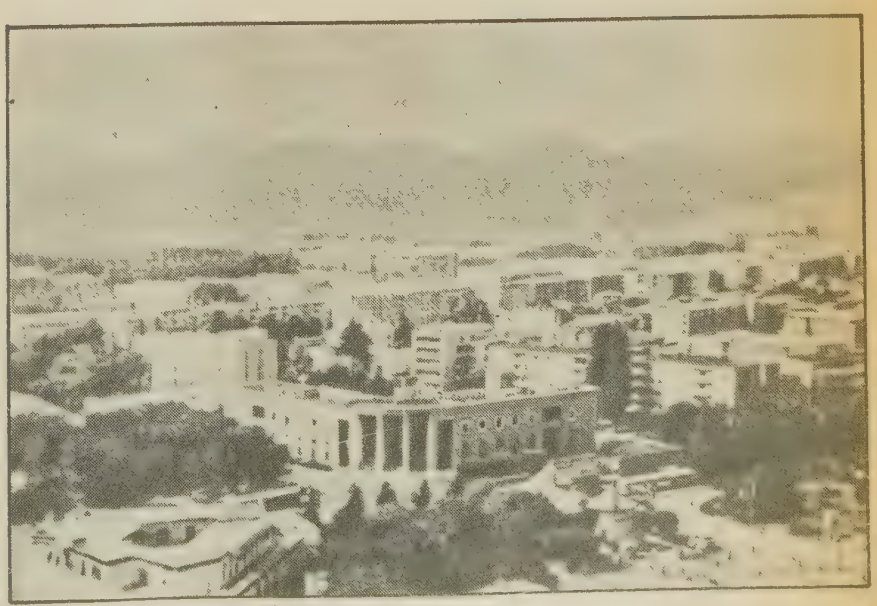
This article appeared in the Hungarian magazine Magyarorszag.

A view of Tirana. ATA photo



told that farmers consume most of what they grow on their household plots (the size of which is restricted to 200 sq. m.), but are allowed to sell a small proportion of the crop.

Albania's population is growing at a rapid rate. The one-million figure of the early post-liberation period has now tripled and is expected to top the four-million mark towards the end of the century.

Population growth is largely linked up with the overall economic policy. Albania seeks solutions to the problems posed by reality. Ramiz Alia, elected First Secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour (APL) in April 1985, insists that old methods be combined with new ones and encourages local initiative. In other words, Albania uses both intensive and extensive methods of stepping up production.

The eighth five-year plan (1986-90), to be submitted to the Ninth Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour scheduled for early November, has already been examined by the plenary meeting of the APL Central Committee held last June. The plan emphasizes the need for modernization, more active and disciplined work, stricter estimation of the results of each six-day working week, and larger volumes of voluntary work (railway building and scrap metal collection). While strictly adhering to its principle of self-reliance, Albania now seeks to avoid voluntarism in economic management and raise labour efficiency.

In the next five years Albania intends to increase its national income by 34-36 per cent; its industrial output, by 29-31 per cent; farm produce output, by 34-36 per cent; basic capital investments, by 10-12 per cent; and real incomes, by 7-9 per cent.

While making an all-out effort to harness hydropower resources and speed up the development of its chemical and mechanical engineering industry, Albania is determined to have its farm produce output increase at a rate faster than that of population growth. In the next five years, the cultivated area is to be increased by 20,000 hectares, and 85,000 flats are to be built.

The way to fulfil these plans is seen not only in a more intensive use of working time, but also in a wider range of weekend jobs done voluntarily without pay. The tendency to provide material incentives for more efficient work is evidenced by the fact that starting this year farming cooperative members are allowed to practise livestock raising on their household plots, borrowing the cattle from the cooperative, and to purchase the products thereof at a 25 per cent discount. Industry is moving towards a more differentiated wage system with pay size being made increasingly dependent on the end results of work. This is especially noteworthy considering that in Albania an average monthly wage constitutes 500-600 leke (at the official rate of exchange, 100 Albanian leke equal 11.94 rubles—**Ed.**).

Albania freed itself from centuries-long Turkish oppression nearly eighty years ago, but won its genuine national independence only in 1944, after Italian colonialists and nazi occupiers had been driven out. Rich in natural raw material resources, Albania has been self-sufficient in grain as well since 1976. However, the country will only stand to gain from doing more foreign trade and accelerating the growth of its heavy, light and food industries (developed both on its own and with the assistance of other socialist countries), and its agriculture.

Certain efforts are already being made in this direction. In April 1979 Albania and Yugoslavia agreed on laying a 65-km Shkoder-Titograd railway. Completed in January 1985, its 35-km Albanian stretch is already open to traffic (only freight traffic so far). This route has a special significance—it has linked Albania with the international railway network for the first time ever. Previously, foreign trade cargoes were carried by road and sea.

What is Albania's foreign policy? To quote Ramiz Alia, "Albania is neither an open, nor a closed country." Complete independence, adherence to the principle of self-reliance and a balanced and credit-free foreign trade remain the most important factors of its foreign policy. Albania promotes foreign trade links with socialist and capitalist countries alike, with more than half of its trade partners being members of the socialist community. ■

On the evening of October 12 bonfires flared up in Indian towns and villages. The one kindled in a Delhi central square eclipsed the dozens of searchlights illuminating the presidential palace. Rising sharp against the velvety-black tropical sky, tongues of flame threw a group of well-proportioned government buildings into bold relief. Firecrackers exploded with deafening reports, firework wheels spun dizzily, and flares burst out overhead as thousands celebrated Dussehra, an autumn festival. A huge dummy of Ravana, the mythological symbol of evil, was burned down to the accompaniment of deafening cheering, and homage was paid to Durga, the goddess of good, whose representation stood close by. Good triumphed over evil.

I looked around for N.K. Ray, the well-known art critic and a connoisseur of Indian folklore, whom I had arranged to meet during the fête, and finally spotted him in the crowd.

"Indian mythology," he told me, "differs from the folklore of other nations. Not only in subject matter, but also in that it still remains part and parcel of our people's culture today. For most Indians, the personages of mythological tales are very real.

"Unimpressionable people, who are in the minority here," N.K. Ray continued, "regard the Goddess Durga merely as an attribute of an ancient myth. But for millions of Indians who have come out into the streets today from their apartments and huts, mansions and shanties, she is a symbol of good, of a promise that all their wishes—both ambitious and modest—will be fulfilled."

The overlay of mythology on daily life made a great impression on the Russian poet Konstantin Balmont, who visited the environs of the sacred town of Benares. He wrote his observations in a small essay entitled "A Word About Kalidasa." In it, the poet quoted the French Indologist Sylvain Lévi who had remarked: "India expresses itself in its dramatic art, which is a concentration of its beliefs, teachings and institutions. . . ." And further: "The Indian genius resolutely took drama out of real life and transferred it to the ideal world of legends and fairy tales."

N.K. Ray told me the beautiful story of the Goddess Durga, his narration interrupted now and then by thunderous sound of exploding firecrackers.

For eight days in a row the mythical Lord Rama prayed to fate for victory over Ravana, the demon of evil. For eight days running he paid tributes of reverence to the Goddess Durga, the embodiment of good and vitality. He

Lord Rama's Last Arrow

picked rare blue lotuses, Durga's favourite flowers, to please her. On the eighth day he gave her 108 lotuses in full bloom. In a test of Rama's loyalty, the goddess hid one of the flowers. 108 was a figure of good omen. At first at a loss, Rama finally decided to make up for the missing flower by sacrificing his eye, which, the legend says, looked like a lotus. Deeply moved, Durga endowed him with magic power. On the tenth day, called "dussehra," Rama defeated Ravana, the embodiment of evil.

This beautiful legend has been coming to life every autumn for centuries now. By Dussehra Day, statues of Durga—a truly divine ten-arm goddess with ten mythological weapons in each hand—are erected in squares and parks all over India. The goddess is depicted as gracefully riding a lion. Next to her, huge representations of Ravana are put up that are doomed to being burnt. In a message addressed to the nation on the occasion of Dussehra Day, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi pointed out that the festival had become an inalienable part of the people's life, that it helped promote national unity, inter-religious and inter-communal brotherhood.

Making the representations of mythological personages has become a regular "industry," involving festival committees, local artisans, artists and cultural organizations. The Dussehra festival creates welcome—though temporary—jobs for numerous handicraftsmen. Although the festival is supposed to erase social distinctions—if only for a day—the sizes of its attributes (the statues of Durga and the stuffed dummies of Ravana) and their decoration depend on what parts of a city or town they are to be erected in.

In Delhi, Dussehra Day is traditionally celebrated in the Ramlila Grounds. B.N. Khanna, chairman of the local festival committee, told me that a Ravana dummy was first burnt there 150 years ago. The ceremony held in Ramlila is most impressive. The dummy of the demon, clad in fancy attire, is 15 metres tall. Khanna proudly told me that more than 10 kg of costly artificial fibre had gone into making Ravana's moustache alone. Those who came over for the festival—most of them by car—could well afford contributing to the festival committee fund a donation equal to a five-day pay of hired hands who made the dummy.

Some ten blocks or so away from the Ramlila Grounds, in a crowded shanty-town, the Dussehra festival takes on an entirely different social aspect. The poor may pin more hopes on the festival than the Ramlila Grounds clientele does, but art requires money as well as sacrifices, as Prem Chand, the neighbourhood elder, told me. And money is short, Prem spread his hands out ruefully. Here Ravana is wrapped in newspapers instead of fancy clothes. But he burns as good as the one on Ramlila Grounds, the elder said with a smile. It's a great pleasure for the kids who look forward to the festival, vying with each other for the right to set the demon on fire. What they look forward to still more eagerly, though, is the arrival of a cartload of sweets. These are handed out free on such occasions, at the expense of a rich Delhi building contractor who uses the neighbourhood people as cheap labour.

Rigging up a Ravana dummy in a poor neighbourhood.

Reproduced from the newspaper Patriot

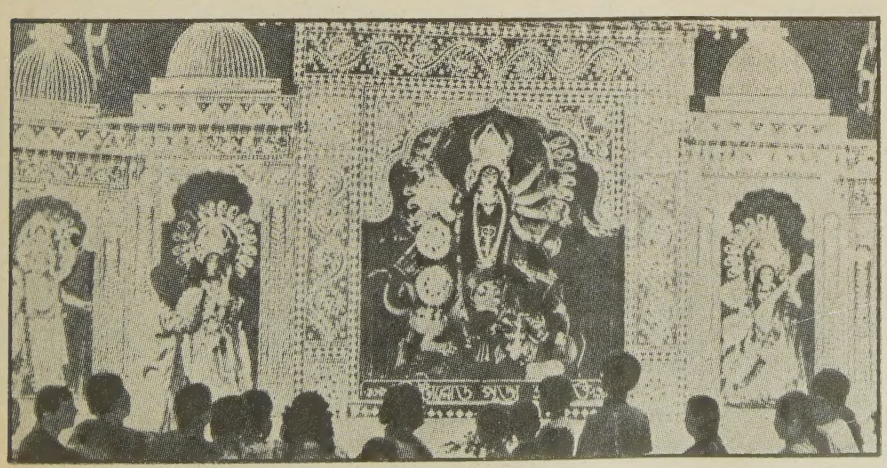
The festival has been an especially happy occasion this year. As they burned the dummy of Ravana and paid homage to the Goddess Durga, millions of Indians celebrated the failure of the recent attempt on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's life. Even on a festive day people do not forget about the real danger and sources of evil. In Punjab, for instance, the ancient myth was "topicalized." In many cities of the state people burned down symbolic representations of terrorism and separatism.

At 9 p.m., the actors playing Lord Rama shoot the last arrows, which are ablaze, at Ravana, setting the dummy of the evil demon on fire. The charred remains of Ravana are left intact for a few days after the festival. People cherish the hope that the forces of evil will flee from their homes, and that the Goddess Durga will fulfil their wishes.

L. ZHEGALOV
our own correspondent

Delhi, October

Durga, the goddess riding a lion, symbolizes good and vital powers.



TAKING UP A POINT

Is it true that the death rate in the U.S.S.R. is much higher than in most capitalist countries of Western Europe?

S. KLEPIKOV
Vladivostok, U.S.S.R.

I have read that the population of the U.S.S.R. reached 280 million in mid-1986. Apparently your birth rate is much higher than in France, although we are in a better position compared to other West European countries. Could you provide more specific data on that score?

Jacques ROUSSET
Paris, France

ALBERT PIN, New Times associate editor, replies:

Statistics show that in recent years the death rate in many capitalist countries of Europe has by no means been lower and in some cases even higher than in the U.S.S.R. Let us compare the figures for 1984. While the death rate per thousand in the Soviet Union was 10.8, these figures were 11.6 for Austria, 11.4 for Great Britain, 11.3 for the F.R.G., 11.2 for Denmark, 11.1 for Belgium, and 10.9 for Sweden. France had a lower death rate figure than the U.S.S.R. (9.8). This is also true of Italy (9.3), Switzerland (9.1), Finland (9.2) and Norway (10.2).

As will be seen from the following table provided by the Central Statistical Board of the U.S.S.R., the overall death rate increased from 1970 to 1985. This is due in part to the "ageing" of the population, i.e., the growing proportion of senior citizens. In 1984-85 influenza epidemics were a major factor in raising the death rate.

Since June 1985 the death rate in the U.S.S.R. has been going down, especially deaths resulting from accidents, poisoning or injury (a drop of 24 per cent). The number of deaths from diseases of the circulatory system has dropped significantly (by approximately 100,000), mainly due to measures controlling drunkenness and alcoholism.

The same table shows that in 1984-85 the natural population growth in the U.S.S.R. exceeded 2.4 million. So, in 1984 the growth per 1,000 population was 8.8 which is considerably higher than in France (4).

The natural population growth in other West European countries in the same year was as follows (per 1,000): Austria—0.1, Belgium—0.6, Great Britain—1.5, Italy—1.0, the Netherlands—3.8, Norway—1.9, Finland—4.2, Switzerland—2.4, and Sweden—0.4. In Denmark and the F.R.G. the death rate per 1,000 of the population exceeded births.

In 1983-85 the U.S.S.R. registered a growth in birth rates and has sustained the same level in the first half of this year. The growing birth rate is to a large extent the result of greater government assistance to families with children.

The population of the U.S.S.R. has increased by 62.5 million people in the last quarter-century. Its average annual growth rate was 1.4 per cent in 1961-65, 1 per cent in 1966-70, and has been 0.9 per cent over the past fifteen years.

According to the latest figures released by the Central Statistical Board, the population of the U.S.S.R. was 280.9 million people as of October 1, 1986. Of these, 72 per cent live in the European part and 28 per cent in the Asian part of the country. Finally, let me say that the Soviet Union is the third most populous country in the world after China (1,046.4 million people in 1986) and India (750.9 million people in 1985). ■

BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND NATURAL POPULATION GROWTH IN THE U.S.S.R.

	1970	1980	1983	1984	1985
			in thous. people		
Born	4,226	4,851	5,392	5,387	5,374
Died	1,996	2,744	2,823	2,965	2,947
Natural growth	2,230	2,107	2,569	2,422	2,427
Infant deaths (under age 1)	103	132	134	140	140
			per thousand inhabitants		
Born	17.4	18.3	19.8	19.6	19.4
Died	8.2	10.3	10.4	10.8	10.6
Natural growth	9.2	8.0	9.4	8.8	8.8
Infant deaths (under age 1)	24.7	27.3	25.3	25.9	26.0

DYNAMICS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN THE U.S.S.R.

	Total number at the start of the year (mln. people)			In per cent of total population	
	total population	urban population	rural population	urban population	rural population
1961	216.3	107.9	108.4	49.9	50.1
1966	232.2	123.7	108.5	53.3	46.7
1971	243.9	138.8	105.1	56.9	43.1
1976	255.6	155.1	100.5	60.7	39.3
1981	266.6	168.9	97.7	63.4	36.6
1986	278.8	182.9	95.9	65.6	34.4

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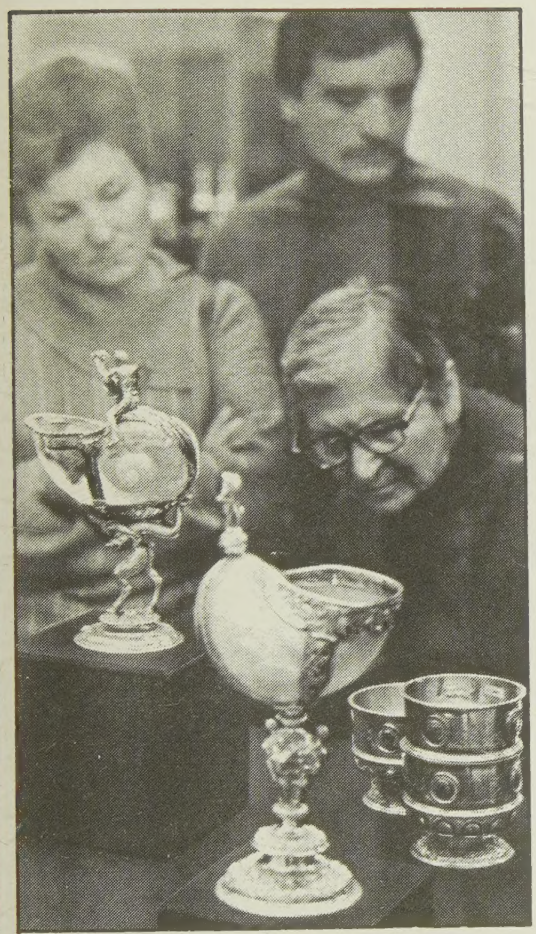
MASTERPIECES FROM VILA FAVORITA

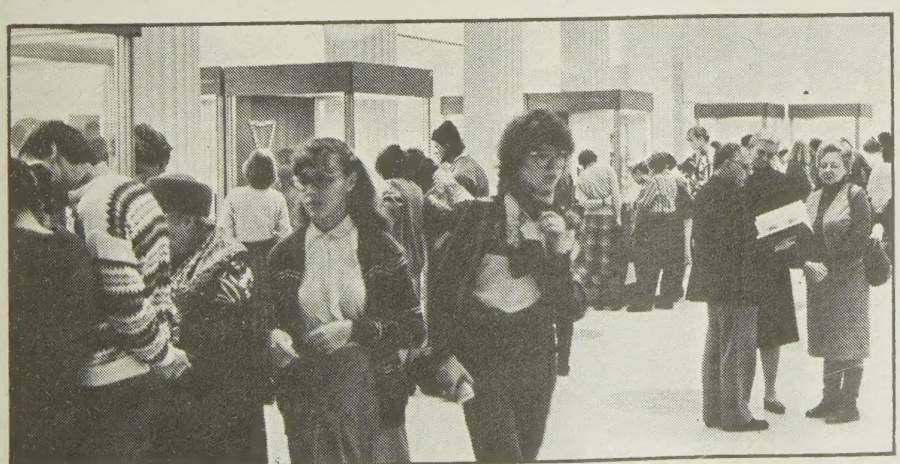
EXHIBITION OF WEST EUROPEAN JEWELRY IN MOSCOW

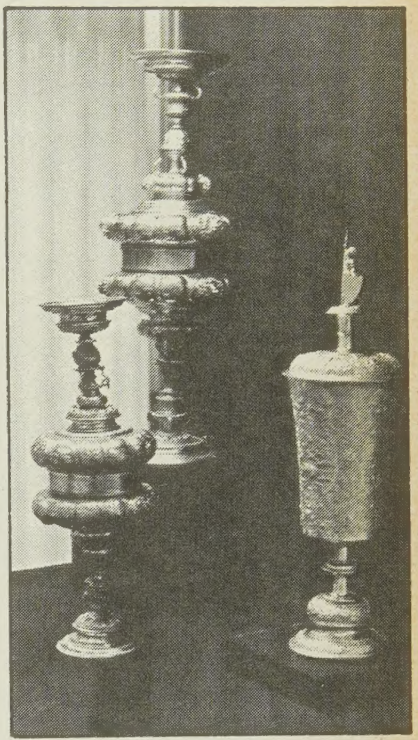


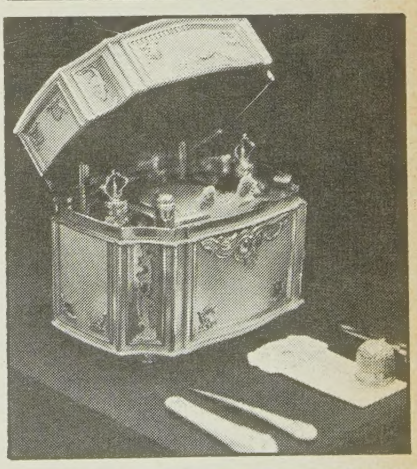
The history of this collection began in Munich in 1930 when Baron Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza exhibited 16th- and 17th-century Italian and German jewelry. After the baron's death in 1947 the collection was divided among the members of his family. His son, Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza, set about restoring it, and in the process added dozens of new items. Thus he built up a collection of English silverware. The collection at the baron's Vila Favorita on the shores of Lake Lugano features Spanish and French items, and articles by Fabergé.

Now the exhibition "Masterpieces of West European Jewelry from the Collection of Thyssen-Bornemisza" has arrived at the Pushkin Fine Arts Museum in Moscow. The 160 exhibits were brought to the U.S.S.R. in exchange for an equal number of gold and silver articles from the state Hermitage Museum currently on display in the Vila Favorita gallery. The exhibits from the Thyssen-Bornemisza collection are not known to the broad public, having been kept in the private rooms at Vila Favorita.

Thyssen-Bornemisza first brought an art collection to the U.S.S.R. in 1983. He says he wants people to "feel a common bond of sympathy in their love of the beautiful things that the culture of our two lands has created."



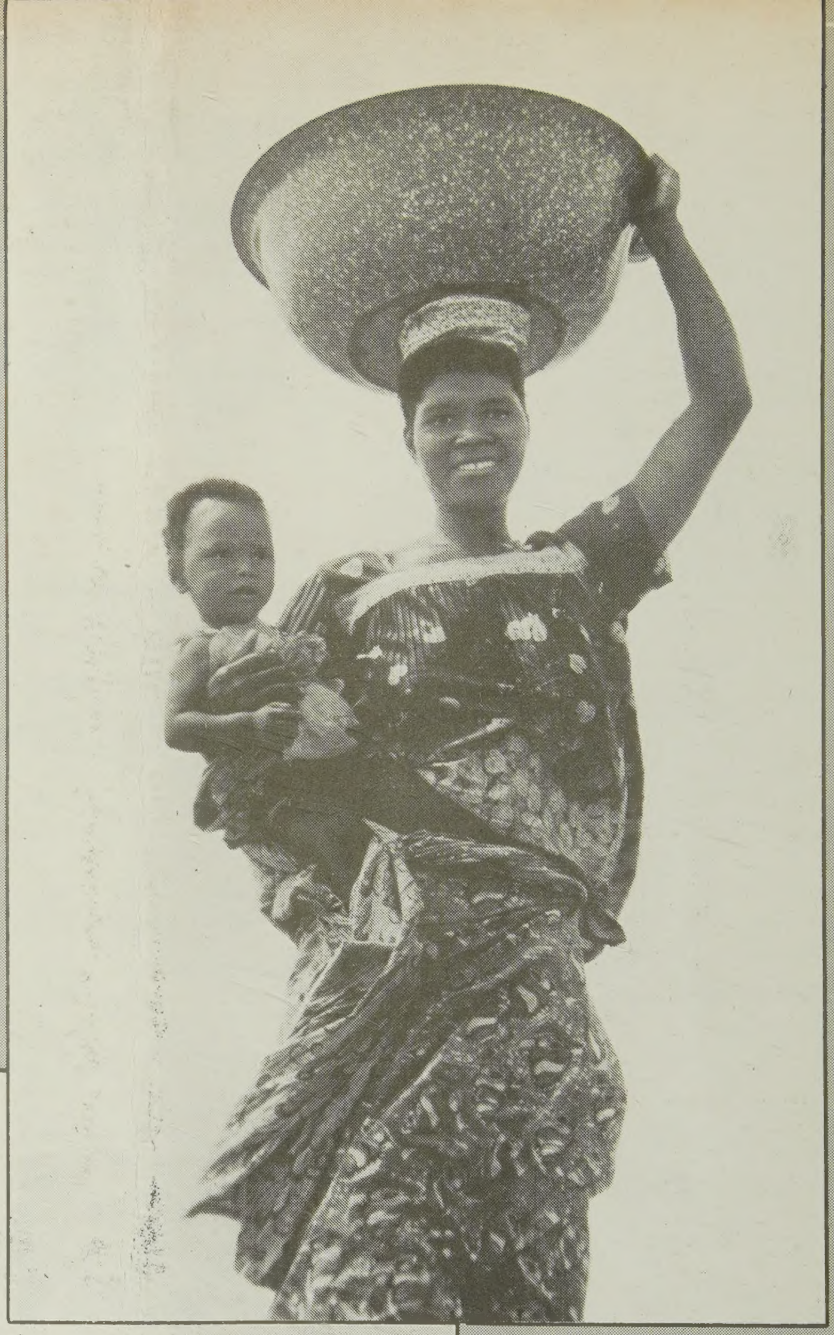




Shell and quartz standing cups. Germany, Holland. 16th century. ● In the exhibition hall. ● Chain with bird pendant. Silver gilt. 16th century. ● Double standing cups. Silver gilt. Germany. 16th century. ● Sewing case. France. 18th century. ● Cigarette case by Fabergé.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE

PHOTO AND GRAPHICS CONTEST



African madonna.

A schoolgirl from Lomé (Togo).

Photos by Yuri KOROLYOV (U.S.S.R.)

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